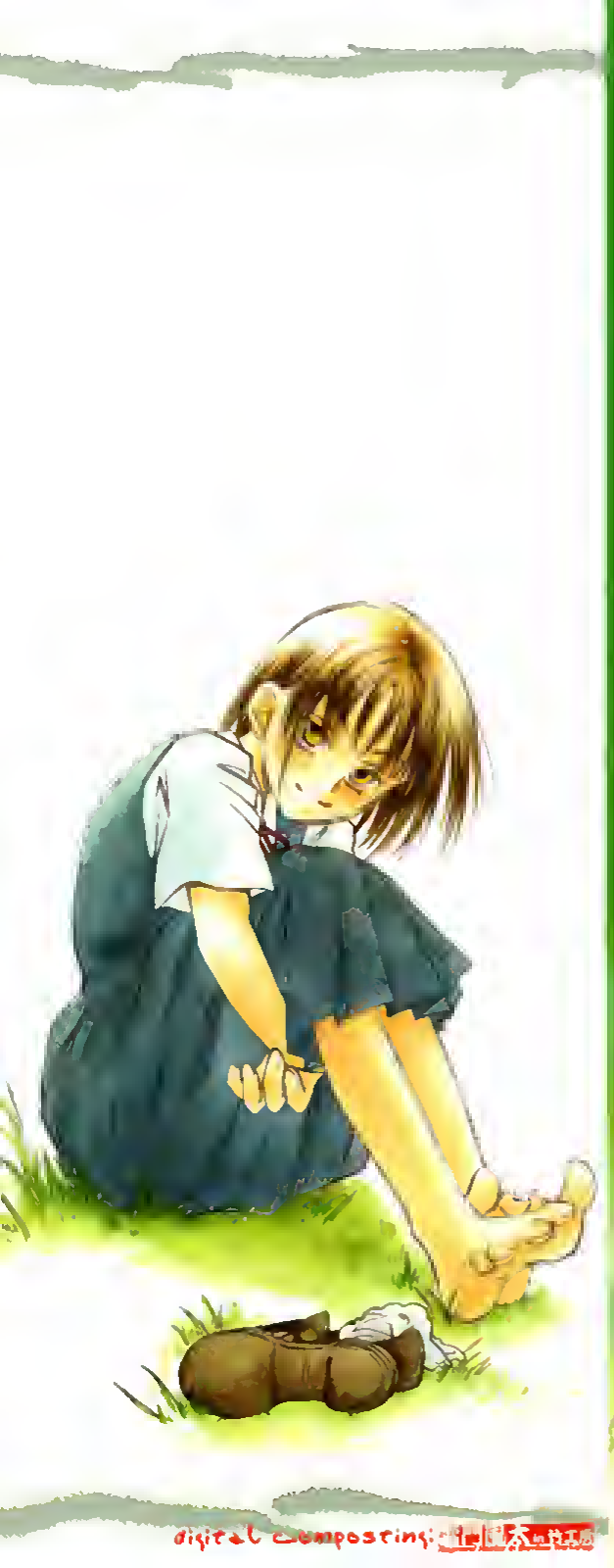

digital compositing:

ベビーリーフ

二宮ひかる Hikaru NINOMIYA

YOUNG KING COMICS

ベビーリーフ
二宮ひかる Hikaru NINOMIYA

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Baby Leaf

ベイビーリーフ

宮ひかる HIKARU NINOMIYA

髪を長く伸ばすのが夢だった。
私の髪はバシバシにかたく あんまりにも まっすぐで、可愛げがない。小学校低学年までは、おかっぱ頭が定番だった。
「ワカメちゃん」とか言われるのが嫌で伸ばしはじめた髪を、母はよくみつあみにしてくれた。「りっぱな髪ねえー。すごい量ねえー。」
みつあみは放っといても勝手にバラけた。

住んでたところは 新興住宅地といえば聞こえは良いが、まるっきりの荒野で、空き地には ハギやセイタカアワダチソウ。 そういえば ネジ花も咲いていた。 あれは季節はいつだっけ。
建てかけの家に入りこんでよく遊んだ。まだ床を張ってない2階まで、仮づけのはしごで登る。 楽しかった。
そのせいか、今になってもまだ建築中の家屋に入って遊びたくなる。

切り出された山のそばは、雨が降ると片足がつけ根までいぼったりした。
(いぼる、って方言? そらすまんねえ)
土くれの塊となった山には、自分で勝手に名前をつけた。「スフィンクス」。

ランドセルにはゴムひもで自宅のカギと定期券。(電車通学だった)

ひざこぞう
何でもないところでよくころぶ。生キズが たえない。
キズが治りかけたカサブタの上からさらにころんで傷をつくる。
一生消えないアトになる。

画新社
COMIC316

ベイビーリーフ

宮ひかる HIKARU NINOMIYA

え? なんの話をしてるかって? やだなぁーキャラクタのおはなしですよう一。どんな実話も、紙の上に落とされた時点でもう創作なのだよ。(ありがち) いや 難儀でした。

それにしても、他人に いや母に 髪をさわってもらうというのは、どーしてこうも気持ちいいのだろう。
私はいまでも 自分で自分の髪を上手にまとめることができない。 女性失格である。
母はよく私をほめた。 「豊かな髪ねえー。りっぱな マユゲねえー。」 なんのことはない、母は髪がうすく、マユは描かないとほとんどない。
まあ単純に、うらやましかったとゆーか、ただの親バカだったのだろうが 私は、母の誉め言葉が好きだった。

このトシになっても「可愛い、可愛い」と言われる。
いや、母でなく私みたいな女に惚れてくれる バカなひとに、だ。
けれどそれは惚れた欲目。視界がかすんでいるにすぎないということは 知っている。
おなじ欲目なら親の欲目のほうがよっぽど信用できるというのは なぜか。
母は健在で、たまに 帰省してはいまだにそのひざに甘えることがある。
「おかあしゃーーん」
サイアクだ。
ひとには みせられん。

しっかし カバーめくったらこんなに字だらけなんてアリですか? ナシですか?

もーおそいです 書いちゃいました。
二宮ひ

え? だからー。創作ですってばー。 ←今さら

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・
団体・事件等には，いっさい関係ありません。

YOUNG KING COMICS

ベイビーリーフ

Baby Leaf

二宮ひかる
NINOMIYA HIKARU

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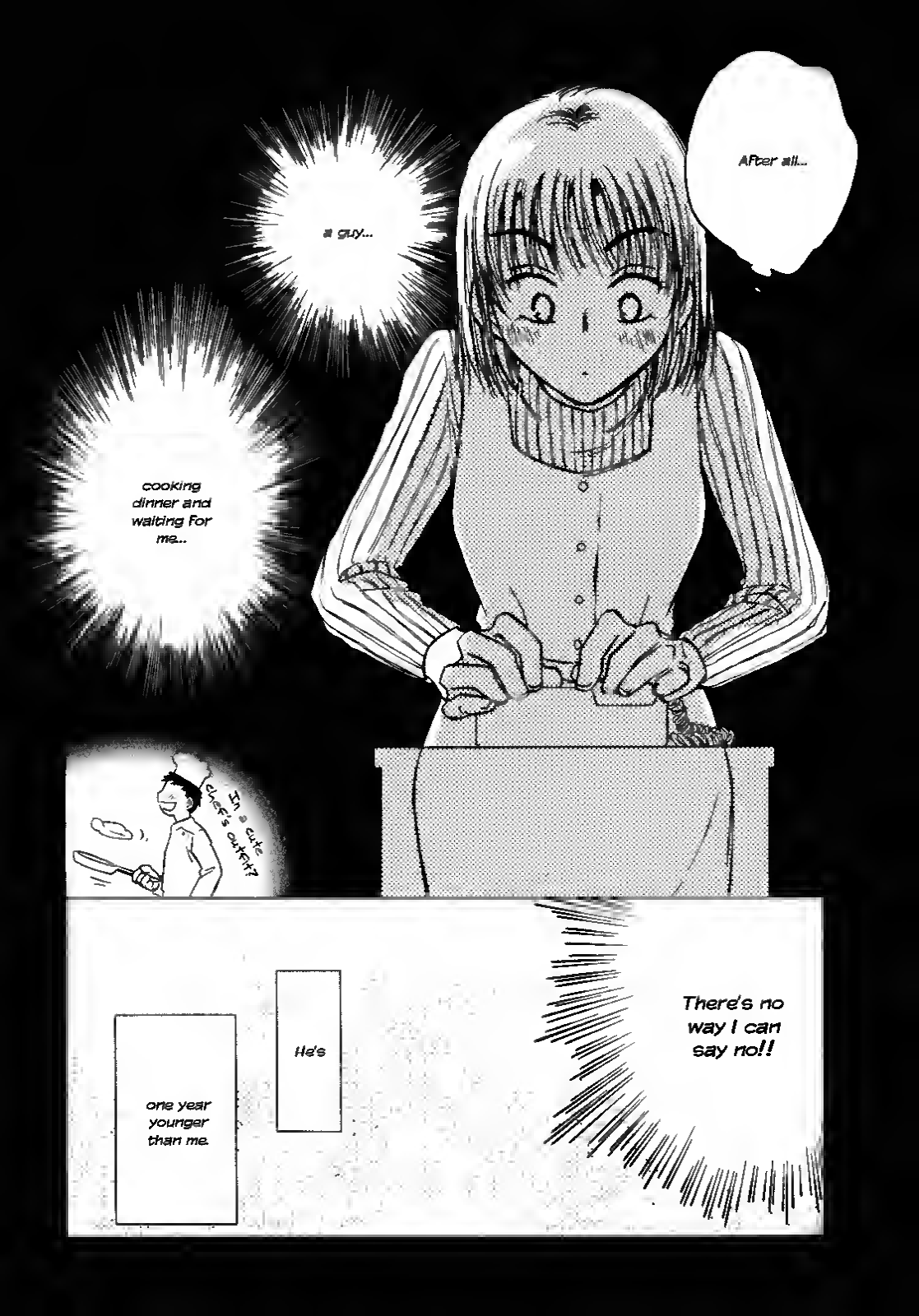
He's my guy...
My only important person
Boy.
But...
Huh? What is it?
You never call.

Yeah
Yeah
What?
My mother's on the night shift
I'm alone
Now?
Hmm?
My parents are both out
Then why not spend the night at my place?

That overused, required phrase
Da-dun, so here it comes...
While thinking
Uh-
Isn't there another way to say it?
Hmm...
What to do?
I'll come!!
I'll make dinner
Will you come for dinner?


After all...
a guy...
cooking dinner and waiting for me...
In a cute chef's outfit?
There's no way I can say no!!
He's
one year younger than me.

www.hanashi.org
#hanashi@irchighway.net
Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-Timer

Qc Yuura © Leiji Winters

SFX GASO GOSO - RUSTLE

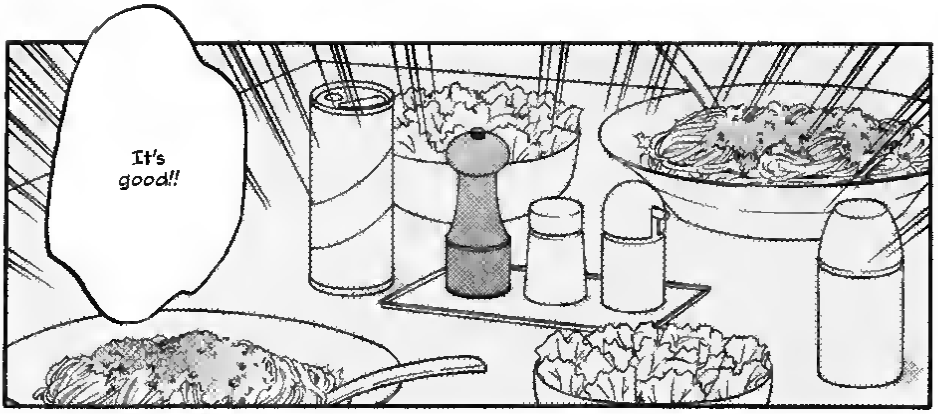
SFX GATA - THUD

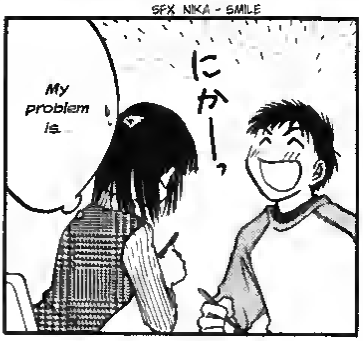
...
"Of course you will!!"
was my self-retort.
Yeah,
but it's not a given we'll go that far.
Uh-oh.
I'm losing my nerve.
I'm always by myself in class.
Boys or girls.
I don't casually speak to people.

Simply put.
There was no one else for me to fall in love with.
I only watched and shared a smile
But
He really saved me
He was
the only boy for me.

Please come in, come in!
Ah!

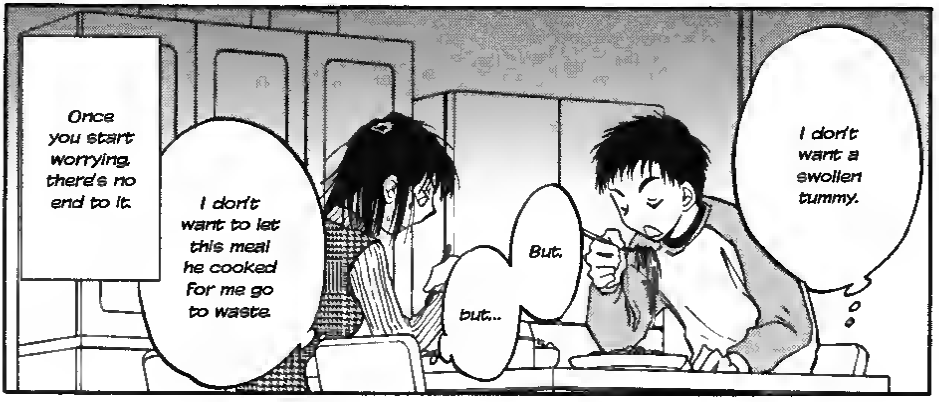
You said "make"...
The spaghetti is almost done.
Ugh.
and adding canned meat sauce?
You didn't mean just boiling spaghetti!
Can I help?
I'm okay!
Sit down and wait!
Ahaha!
Um—er—
I was gonna take lettuce and make a salad.


It's good!!


SFX: NIKA - SMILE
にかー
My problem is...

should I eat my fill?

You boiled the spaghetti perfectly!
Yeah!
Really?


Once you start worrying, there's no end to it.
I don't want to let this meal he cooked for me go to waste.
But, but...
I don't want a swollen tummy.

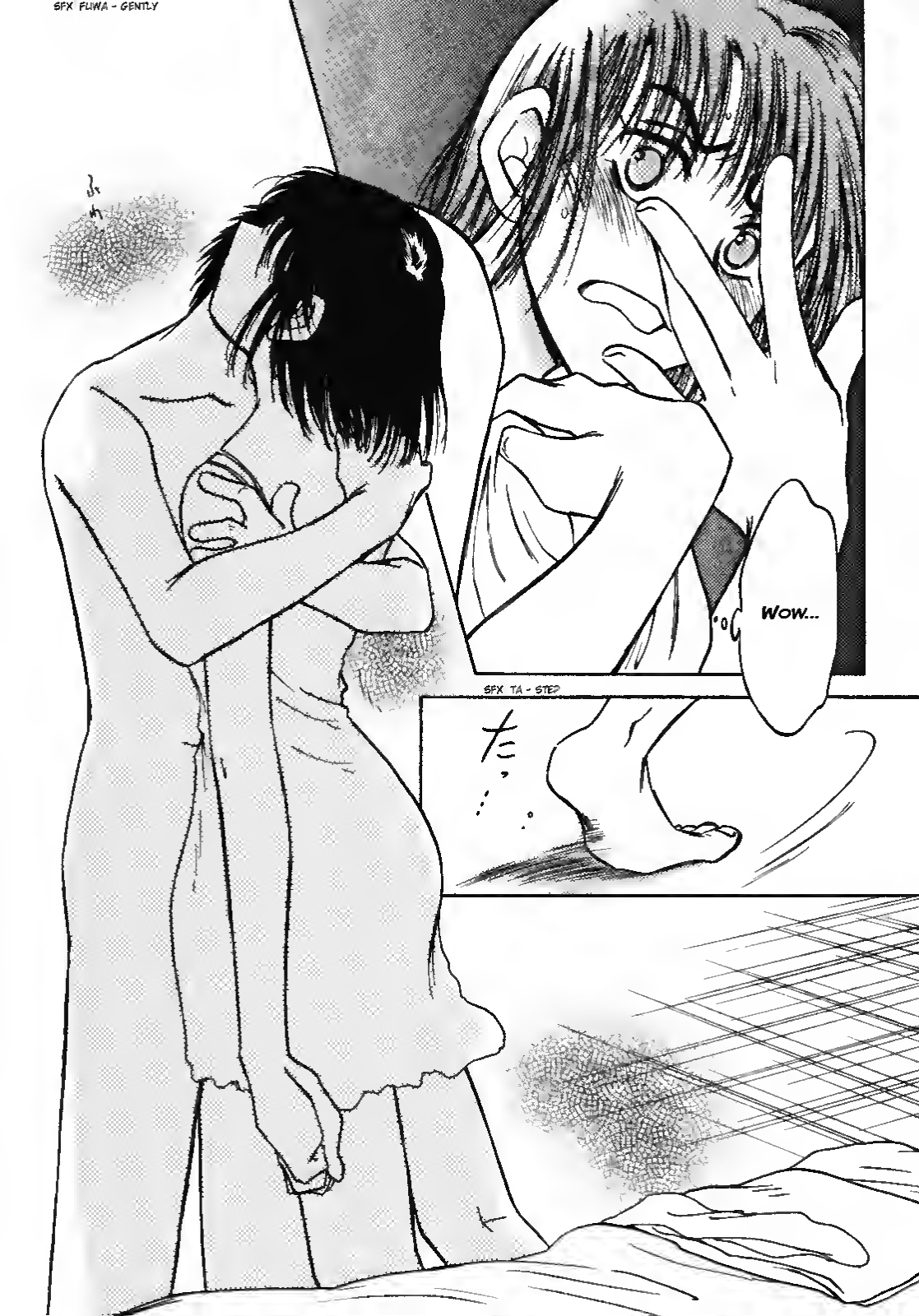
We've got seconds!
Really, what would I do if my gut stuck out more than my boobs?
...
I wonder if guys mull over things
...
this much at times like this...
He really isn't thinking...

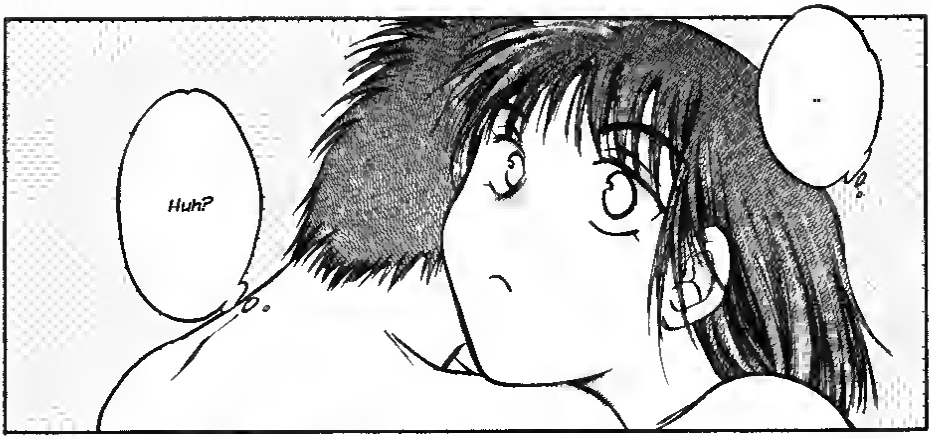
Why is it only girls?
that annoys me.
Some-how...
Nerv-ous...
Is it cool?
I'm over-thinking it.
Spin-ning in circles.

And with no lead-in!?
That sudden!?
SFX: GYU - SQUEEZE
Eh!?
Gah!
Ah..!

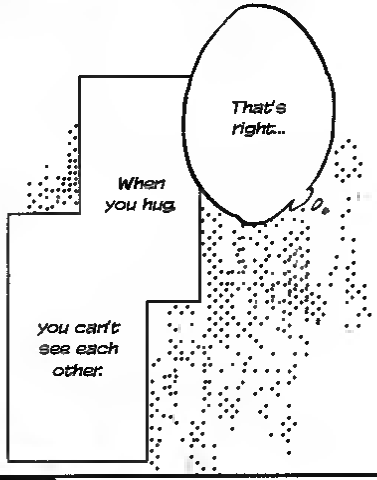
SFX: GEHO - COUGH
I'm okay
Uh
Sorr
Mm...
Wait...
Hold... on...
I'll undress myself.
SFX: HAA - GASP

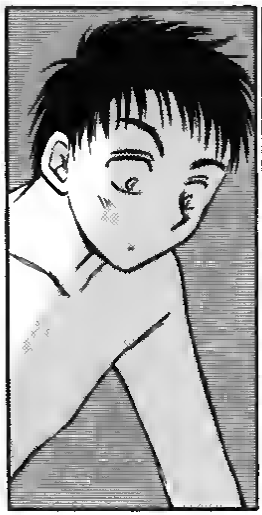
What trouble.
Oh yeah.
Where to put my clothes...
I'm not prepared at all.
Should I fold them?
If you don't get undressed
you can't do it.
It just occurred to me.


SFX FUWA - GENTLY
Wow...
SFX TA - STEP


Huh?
..

I'm not embar-rassed...


That's right...
When you hug
you can't see each other.

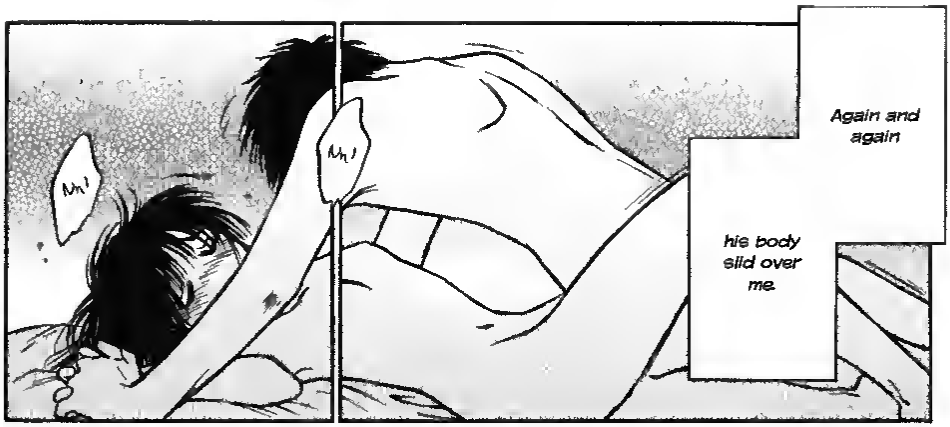


Don't let go...

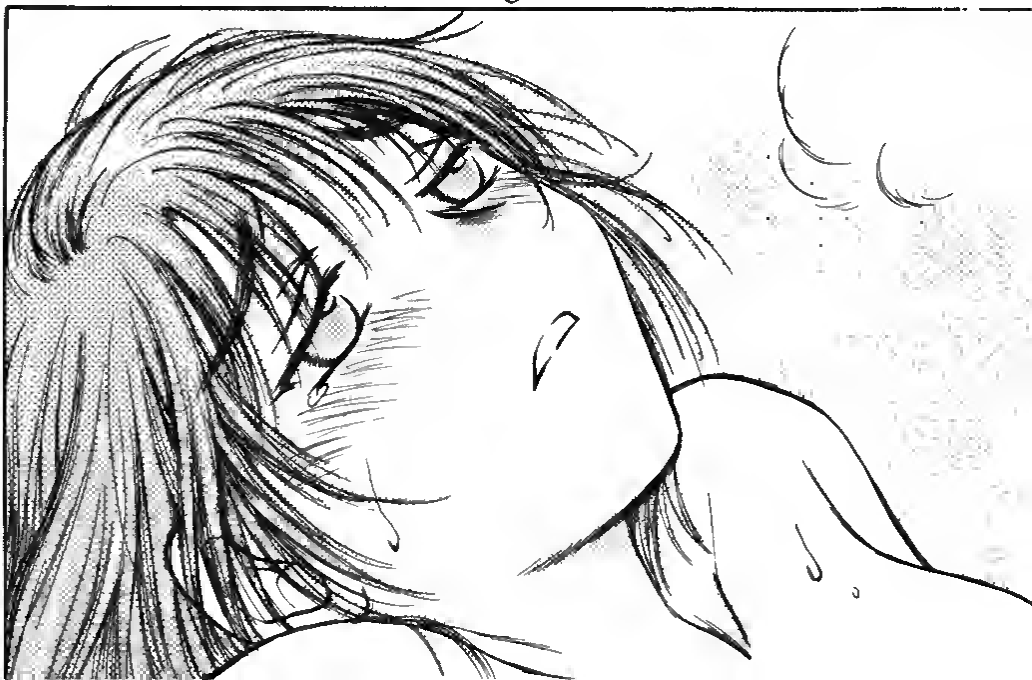
SFX: PUYO - TWEAK

Ah...
I didn't know it'd be that cold.
Sorry, my hand...
Mm...
Mm...
Ha...

Uwaa!
Ah!
We
Iah!
Ah!
lost our chance to let go of each other's hands.
Unnnnn!


Again and again
his body slid over me
Uh!
Uh!

He couldn't get it in
Enough already
without using his hands...
So
I guess
Okay
Ah...
Ii...



Haa...
That's when I knew
I never learned it
but I somehow knew how to cooperate
ぎゅっ
SFX GYU - SQUEEZE
I could never let him go.
I...

Where to clench...
where to relax
Uuuhh...
Ah!
Ah!
Ah!

Ii...
Hu!
Ah!
Haa!
Ii...
Ah!
Ah!

SFX GAHA - JUMP
Sorry, sorry!
Was I heavy?
Just a minute
Um
Tissues, tissues

Why so cheerful?
Can I open a window?
HE ALREADY HAS OPENED IT
HE ALREADY HAS HIS PANTS ON
Maybe because
He's already done it and gotten past it.
I thought I was gonna die!
I was a bundle of impatience!
A bundle of nerves!
No way! Not at all!
Are you used to this?

Even if it killed me
I wanted it to death
Sounds...
pretty rough...
It was!
Desire won out
Ahahaha
!
Ng!
What's wrong?
Some "sludge"
just ran out
A lot...
came running out...

Even if it kills me!
I really want to see!
EWW!?
Can I look?
Can
No way, I said!!
No way!!
In the end
we did it once more.
However I don't recall the details.
Absolutely not!

Zzz...
Can't sleep?
No
I just woke up
Worried?

I'll walk you there!
I'm okay
I said I'll walk you there!
I'm just saying it's okay
I'm definitely going along!!
I just couldn't sleep.
Trudging home in the middle of the night
I'm
I became strangely timid.
Hmm?
Dragging you out in the cold
I'm sorry for being selfish
When it's cold, just look at the stars
I guess it's because he's gone from "the only one for me" to "the one who is mine".

I realized
I didn't know a thing about him.
I wonder if the same part of the brain
both focus the soul and looks at the stars.
It's not whimsical,
How maiden-like
It really makes you feel less cold
Morning!

I didn't give a thought
to birth control
I wanted to apologize
for last night
Hey!
are you waiting for me?
There's nothing to worry about
It all ran out afterwards!
Quiet!!
Hey!! Quiet!
That "maidenlike" feeling was just blown away.
I wanted to say it as soon as possible!
Don't talk like that in the morning!
Um—

Then don't you think...
the leftovers always drain out?
Everyone knows that much...
Are you making fun of me?
If one egg
and one sperm...
SHE DID
You didn't think...
it'll all just get absorbed?
I really
don't know much of anything yet, do I?
I was so relieved when my next period came on schedule.
Who was it that knew the ways of the world?

#1／END

Baby Leaf

Chapter 1

www.hanashi.org
#hanashi@irchighway.net

Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-timer
Editing: Skif & Girsej
QC: Yuura & Leila

I guess many of you might recognise the characters, for we've finally gotten around to do the prequel, if you can call it that, to Honeymoon Salad. We promised something we couldn't keep so this is us in some way trying to make up for our (my?) loose tongue :/ Anyway, I'm bugging Druid about Honeymoon so hopefully there'll be something coming along, soonish ...maybe

/Girsej

www.hanashi.org
#hanashi@irchighway.net
Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-Timer
Editing: Cirsa
Qci Yuura © Leila Winters

I had sex with him For the First time.
One slightly cold spring night
But
not be-cause it was sensational or because it was our next step
only because we wanted to.
I Felt extremely FulFilled.
Ah..!

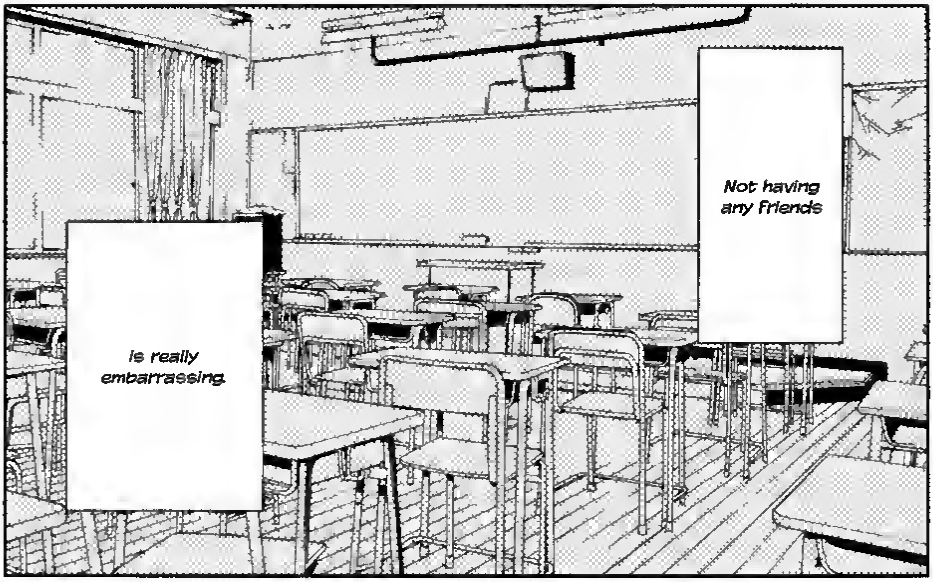
Morning!!
morn
SFX HYU ~ CATCALL
Uh...
yeah
It's your older wife!
No way, stupid!
It's not like that!!

What?
...
I said it's not like that!
But he
didn't feel the same.
Somehow
I feel I'm being avoided...
...

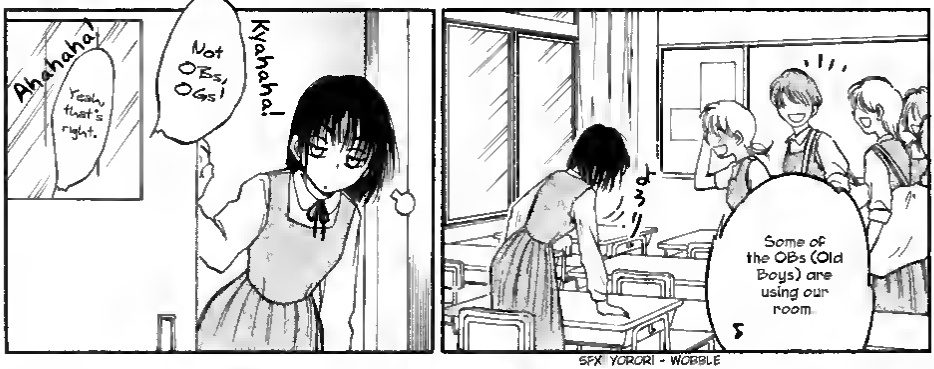
Do it once and the feeling fades?
Could it be that?

That's ok.
It was like this before.
I have no one to say "good morning" to.
Without him

Being alone.
SFX: KATAN - THUMP
Not being spoken to by anyone.
...
カタン
Being unloved.
It's neither harsh nor sad.
I'm okay.
I'm used to it.
...but...

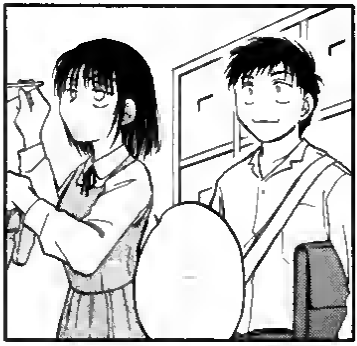


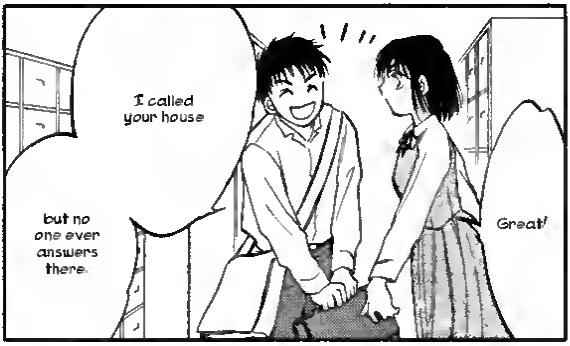
SFX: GARARA - DOOR OPENING



SFX: YORORI - WOBBLE

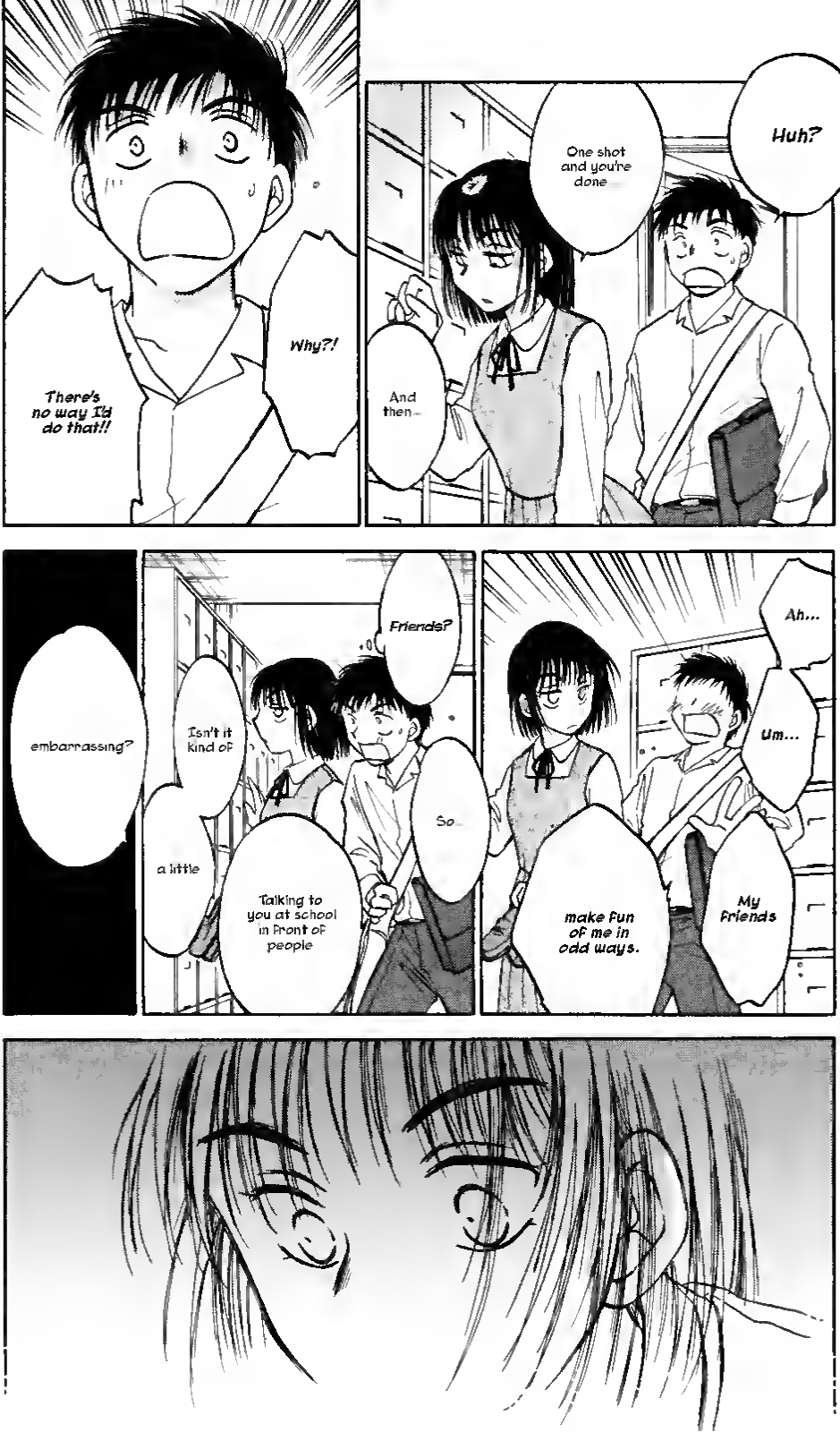
Ah!
You were still here at school!




I called your house
but no one ever answers there.
Great!

I got to wondering
whether you needed me or not anymore.

Somehow
it seems it's been awhile since we've gotten together


There's no way I'd do that!!
Why?!
And then...
One shot and you're done
Huh?
embarrassing?
Isn't it kind of
a little
Talking to you at school in front of people
So...
Friends?
make fun of me in odd ways.
My friends
um...
Ah...

Our standards of embarrassment
are totally different.
Yeah, but
for a girl to say things like "one shot".

I can't say it.

SFX PORO PORO PORO - CRYING
SFX GYO - SHOCK
がびーん
ほろ
ほろ
ほろ
The fact that I don't have a single friend..
I definately can't say that!!

I'm sorry!!
Ack!
Ugh!
I don't want him to know.
I don't want him to hate me.
SFX. GYU - SQUEEZE
No, it's not that
I'm sorry
Was it that bad?
SFX KYORO KYORO - LOOKING AROUND
Really, you didn't do anything you need apologize for

SFX BOTO BOTO - CLATTER
SFX FA - RELEASE
SFX GYU - SQUEEZE
More!
Um...
That's it!
All done!
More!!
Mo-
cough
Why?!
If I touch you any longer,
I'll want to do it...
Then do it!!

I would if I could!!
Tha... that's...
Uh...
I said vigorously.
We'll just do it at school!
In that case!!
My mom is always around the house...
But!
I couldn't take it back anymore.
Volleyball club temporary changing room
Please don't peek!
No one will come back here until after practice is over
Probably...

Come on.
ガタタ
SFX GATATA - SCRAPE
SFX BAN - SMACK
ばん！
SFX PUCHI - CRACKLE

UNREASONABLE
If you wanna touch, here's your opening!
Won't that be trouble if someone shows up?!
No taking clothes off!!
SFX: BIKU - SURPRISE

CRUNCH
On second thought, no.
Um..
?

Why's he carrying them around?
I do!
We don't have any condoms
I-
I do!

It's funny to say this since I did the inviting, but...
I never thought
guys would still go for it under these circumstances.
Il!

Ao!
Somehow
it hurts more than last time.
AH!
TSU...
Sorry
Ow!
Ow, Ow!
Sorry
Even while saying sorry...
he's not stopping.
Ah

Here!!
Ah
Sorry
Just a minute
Um
Ah!
Just...
There's something you still haven't done!

ぎゅっ。
SFX GYU - HUG
Really?
We can't do it every day forever!
From now on
do it every day!

So every day this week.
Do it every day!!

HE THOUGHT I MEANT SEX
You're...
okay with that?
but he didn't hear it that way
Eh?
Eh?
I...
was talking about kissing.

2
It's okay
There's no one here

After that, it was mostly stubbornness.

Though he looked quite bashful.
Are you calling it quits?
...We're really going to?
he never said no.
in the end.
This way
You can keep a lookout for people
Eh?
Nevertheless...
Eh?
No way!

It was strange...
how much more the romantic atmosphere faded each time we did it.
This way, we can hide it with your skirt
This isn't right.
Some-
Some-how...
Ow!
Damn!
I love you
You sure?

I love you.
I love you...
I was thinking how "I love you"
means the same to a boy as "I want to do it".
What now?
Sun-day.
On the seventh day,
starting on Monday.
So...

How about...
we call it quits?
I guess...
the only place to go is...
school
Um...
Okay
how about my place?
Eh?
There's never been a Father in my house
And my mother is always at work

We're far from rich
and I was ashamed
of this cheap apartment.
It was the first time I invited him over.
We should have done this from the beginning—
Why?
What for?
I'll help.
Not at all!
Aren't times spent laying out the futon and such embarrassing?

Taking off my clothes
used to be so embarrassing.
But now.
I like it much better doing it naked.

Being touched.
sucked.. licked..
All Felt so good.
All right!
Weeklong marathon complete!!

This soreness
is bothersome.
In other words...
we're taking a break.
Huh?!
Starting tomorrow
go back to your friends
Don't call it a week-long marathon...
I'm sorry, did I
push you too hard?
This guy is all apologies.
Sorry.
Did I
do something to make you cry again?

Lust becoming love
or loneliness becoming love.
I wonder which is more impure?

Not at all!!

I thought how much I'd rather he always said
"I wanna do it".

I'm so happy!
I'm happy
I...

#2/END

Baby Leaf

Chapter 2

www.hanashi.org
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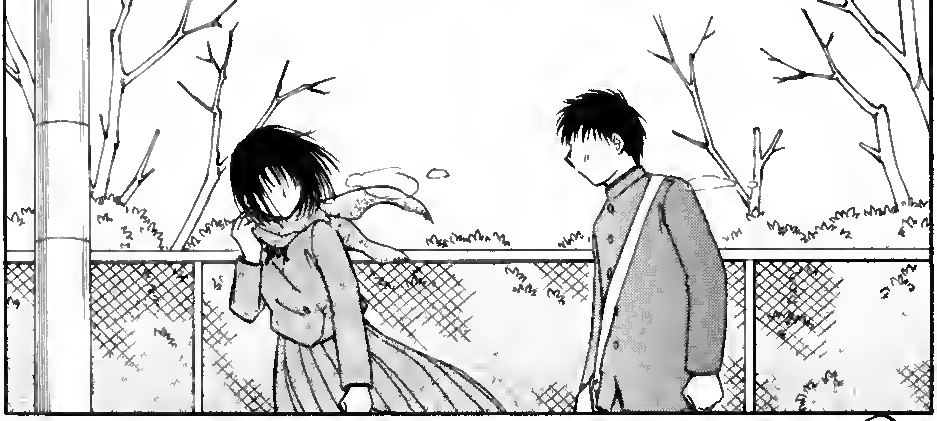
Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-timer
Editing: Girsej
QC: Yuura & Leila

#3.
Scattered

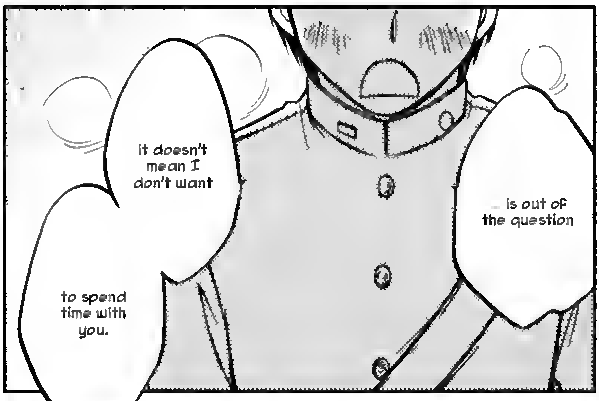
www.hanashi.org
*hanashi@irchighway.net
Scans: Druid
Translation: Old Timer
Editing: Cirsej
QC: Yuura & Moa

I've been a liar lately.
We're not having sex today?
It's my period
Yeah, I know!!



I see.
You're saying that you know
my menstruation cycle?
No, I'm not! That's not what I'm talking about!
So...
Just because
Se...
Se...

The season changed
and it was again winter.


it doesn't mean I don't want
... is out of the question
to spend time with you.

You don't have to force yourself!
Lately
it seems like we're always together.
We have nothing to talk about.
But
Really, I'm not
But you always manage to talk to your friends!!
there's nothing exciting to talk about
Just going to school every day
That's just the way it is, isn't it?

happily
Always
laughing
That's why I said you don't have to force yourself!!
We just talk about stupid stuff
No
After school and on Sundays,
you'd have more fun with your friends, right?

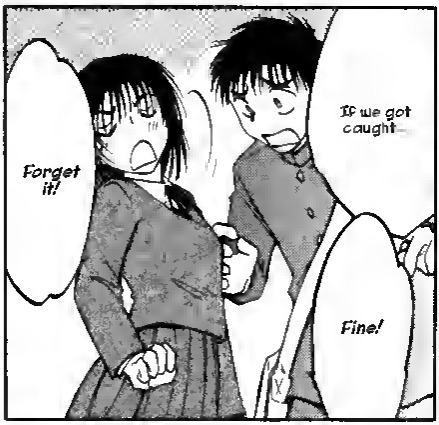
If someone did that to me, I wouldn't be happy at all!
just because you have a girlfriend.
That's not true...
It's not good to lose touch with your friends
You'll regret it
I'm leaving.
You have to
Alright...
treasure your friends
This is a lie.

Ah!
You're leaving?
What's this!
Are you angry!?
Didn't you want me to go?
ガタ
SFX GATA - CHAIR RATTLING
Which is it?
Which is it?
ひら
Ah...
SFX HIRA - FLOAT

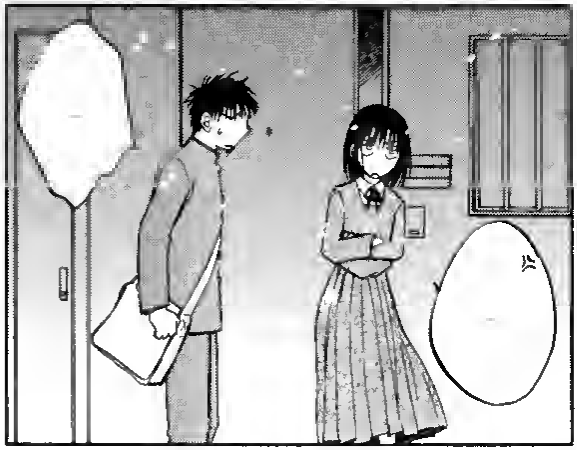
Snow...
The first cold wave of the year
came earlier than usual.
It really is

But lately, you know,
because of stuff like global warming—
It used to really pile up
Will it stick?
It won't around here
Maybe back in the mountains
I hope it sticks
I want to go see the snow...
Eh?
Someplace where it piles up
Somewhere
Far away—
This is...
Snow...

That's impossible!
Before all the snow disappears!
Tomorrow!
Hey, let's go!"
Eh!?


Forget it!
If we got caught
Fine!

What about school?
You gonna play hookey?



I'll go by myself.

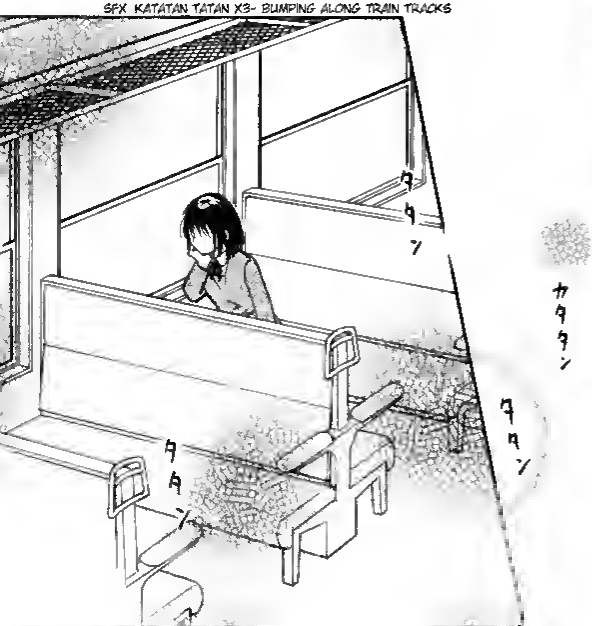
Weren't you going home?
Actually,
I hoped
he would lose all his friends.
With no one left
Then...
He'd be alone
with me...
just like me
He'd be miserable
Only me...

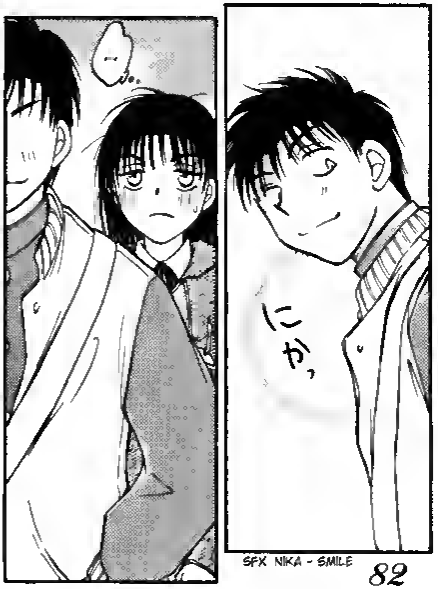
SFX CHICHICHI · CHIRP CHIRP

SFX CHICHI · CHIRP CHIRP

The next day.
Why are you still dressed like that?
Weren't you planning on skipping school!?
Eh?
Eh—
?
As expected, the snow vanished without a trace.
Why?
Hurry up and get dressed!
We're going to see the snow, right!?
Wishing he was miserable.
God...
wishing he was all alone.
That was all a lie.

Always having fun...
Lots of friends...
Going? Not going?
Which is it?
We're really going?
We-
Really, I want him to be happy.
Going!!
Going!
G-
I want him to be smiling.


SFX KATATAN TATAN X3- BUMPING ALONG TRAIN TRACKS
カタタン
カタン
カタン
カタン


...
にか。
SFX NIKA - SMILE

Um, about the cost for the ticket and for lunch
Hey, take a look at this train schedule
Isn't it fun to just read it?
Ah
Okay
Here, lunch and tea
Re-
really?
They didn't take trips
I wondered what was so fun about that,
but now I think I understand
but they had fun making plans for trips
We had a travel club in grade school
I think
I was just being considerate of him.
Oops, we're changing trains here.
O-
ok!
Hmm
can be fun by itself
Planning things like where to change trains
He was more talkative than usual today
and I don't think I was just imagining it.

SFX: KATATAN - BUMPING ALONG TRAIN TRACKS

Wow...

Awesome!
Awesome!
Awesome!

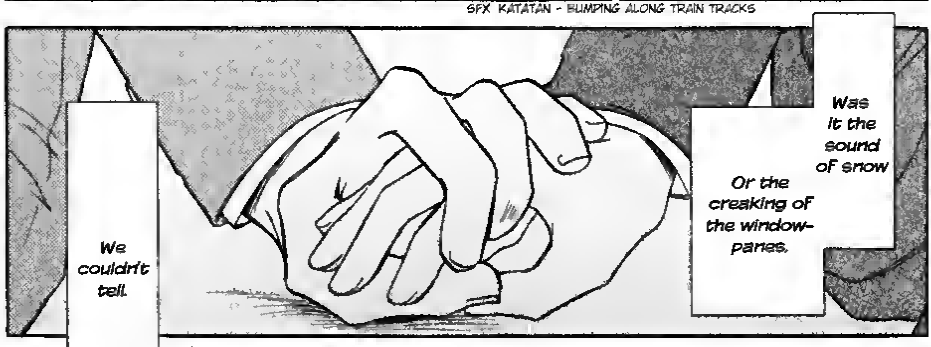
It's not like I made it snow.
It's okay
Awe-some!
Wait!
Ah, hey, wait!
No one has walked over there yet!
Over there!
Kyaaaaaaaa!
SFX BOFU - FLUMPH

Stupid!!
What are you doing!!
That's not safe, is it!?
You don't know what's under that snow!!

Or pointy stumps...?
ゾおっ
ズボ
You...
SFX ZUBO - CRUNCH
SFX ZOU - FEAR
Ah
Ahh...
What would you have done if
There was a pond or something sharp under there!
ぽむ
SFX POMU - THUMP
Don't be picky!!
I-
I don't need your help!
SFX BA BA - PAT PAT
ばッ
ばッ

Okay...
After that...
Let's go...
If we don't catch the next train
we're going to get home late...
In a waiting room, too, with no one around
we just kept kissing.
SFX: JIJIJI - HISSING
We were briefly quiet on the way home.
SFX: KATATAN - BUMPING ALONG TRAIN TRACKS

SFX KATATAN - BUMPING ALONG TRAIN TRACKS



#3/END

Baby Leaf

Chapter 3

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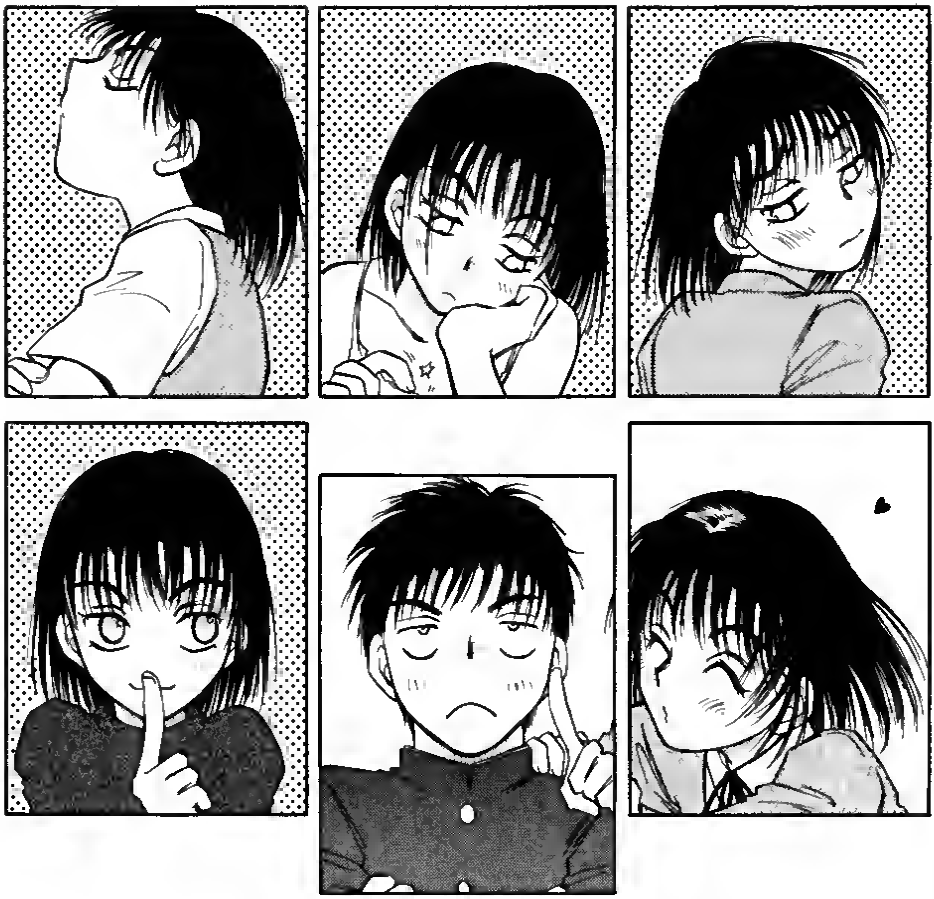
Translation: Old-timer
Editing: Girsej
QC: Yuura & Moa



#4.
Cute

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Translation: Old-Timer
Editing: Girsaj
Qc: Yuura & Moa

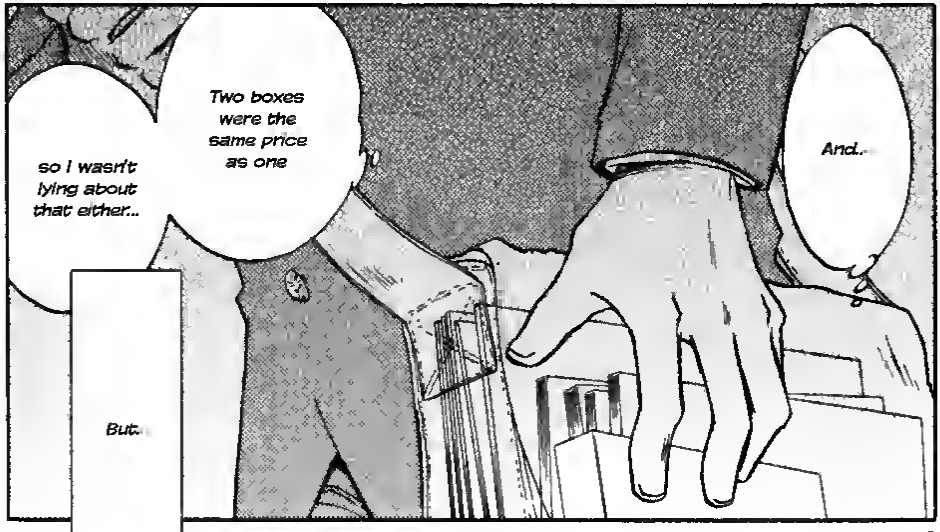
SFX TAN · BANG
I think I'm rather
the type who can get things done.
I'll take this.
CONDOMS
Um

I'm dividing them up with some classmates
These are...
For you ?
Yes!!
Ah
That's it
I see it now
Okay, okay
You're at that age where you're curious about those things

This one only has 12 to a box
THUMP
But, boy
One box won't be enough, will it?
How many boys are in your class?
Hm?
Yeah, I know.
SFX: TON - THUMP
Or this one, you can get three for the price of one!
It's spendy to pay that much for one box.
With this one you can get two boxes for the same price as one

I'll take two boxes!
Why did they make the price this high...
Then...!
It's on!
How'd it go? How'd it go?
Ooh, he's back!
Without a lot of trouble
I got what I wanted to.
Victory!

Ooh!!
Split 'em up, split 'em up!
You did it!
Don't open it here!
With my friends.
Gyahahaha
Moron.
Don't do that.
I'm gonna put one on when I sleep tonight.
These are the classmates I meant.
not that I lied about them.
My studies weren't going badly.
So we each get four
There're twelve


Two boxes were the same price as one
so I wasn't lying about that either...
But.
And..

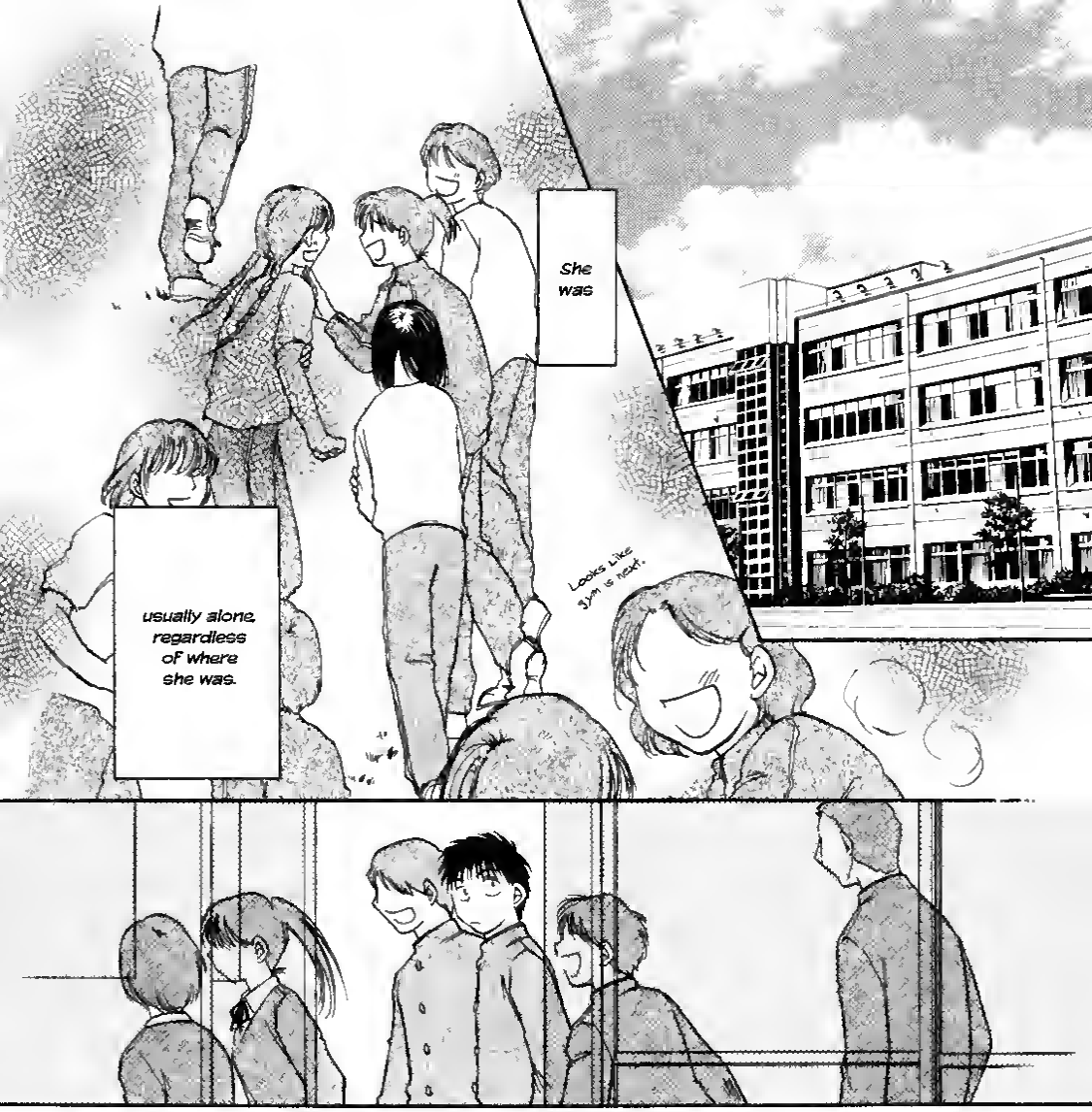
But I didn't much
like myself like this.
SFX: FAU - FLOW
How do
you buy these?

Like from a vending machine?
At night?
How...
Nothing special
No...
Wow!!
Normally you buy them at a drugstore
Weren't you embarrassed?
How much do these cost, anyway?
I don't think it's that awesome...
You're awesome!!
I'm surprised you did that!

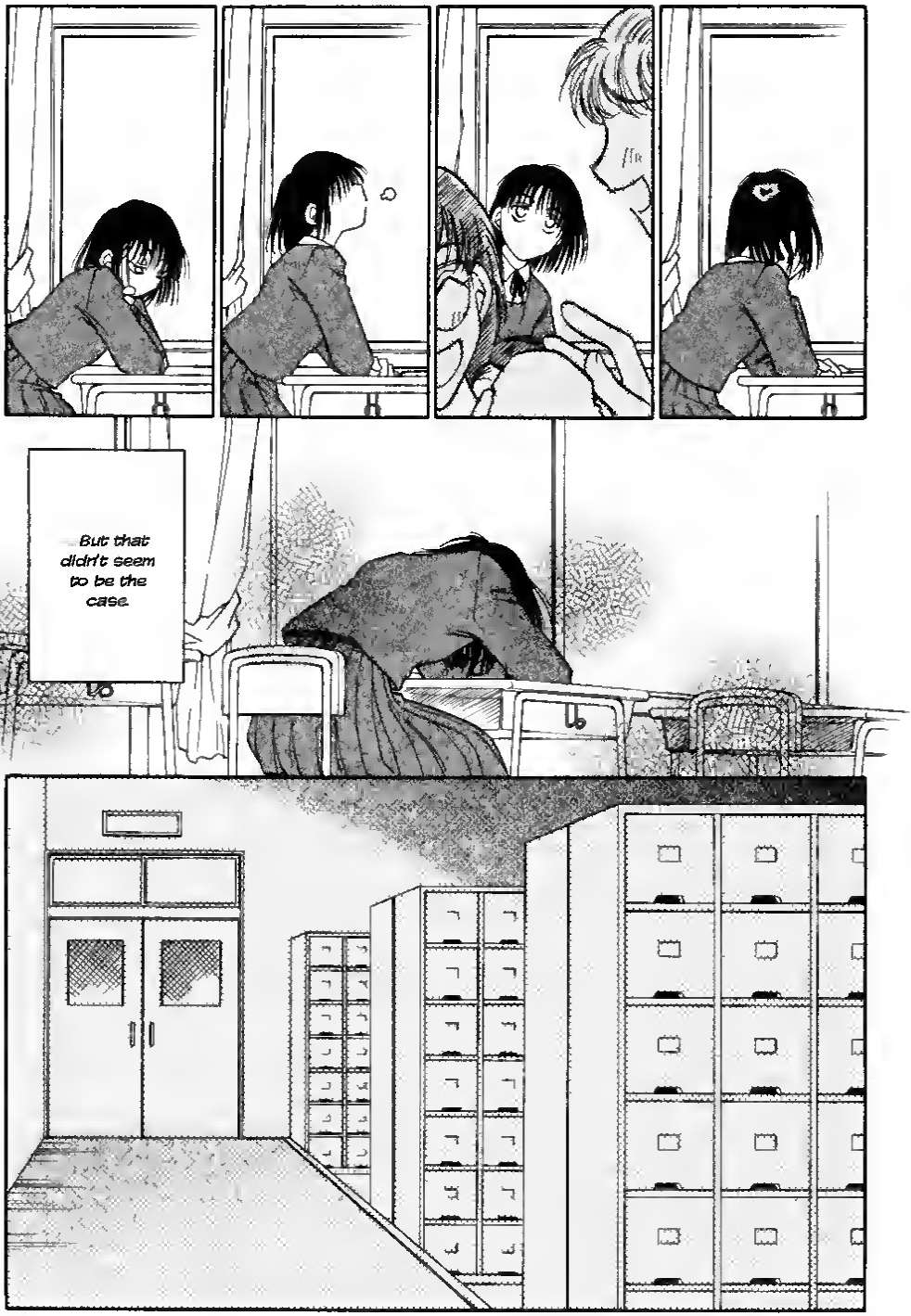
There's not really
Okay!
Next time I'll buy!!
What?
We should
both be responsible for it
Yup, yup!
Are you serious?
I can't push all the unpleasant tasks on you!

Can you picture it?
As you're buying them?
You go to the store.
Really?
Yeah?
Of course I am!!
Even though
...
she's a year older.
Seems okay?
Can you do it?
How is it?

she was so cute
that I stopped being formal.
Her cuteness
was like the cuteness of a small animal.

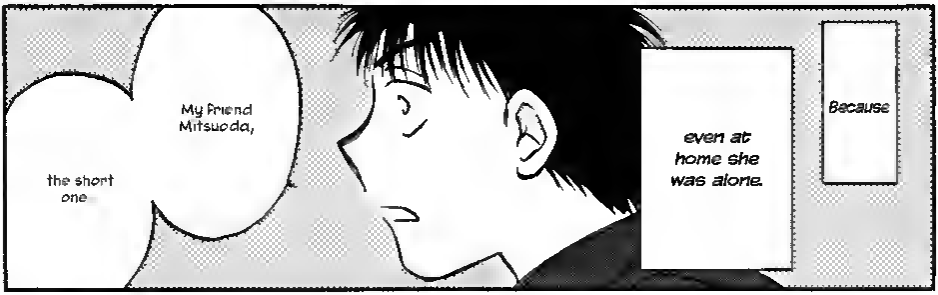

She was
usually alone, regardless of where she was.
Looks like Jun is next.

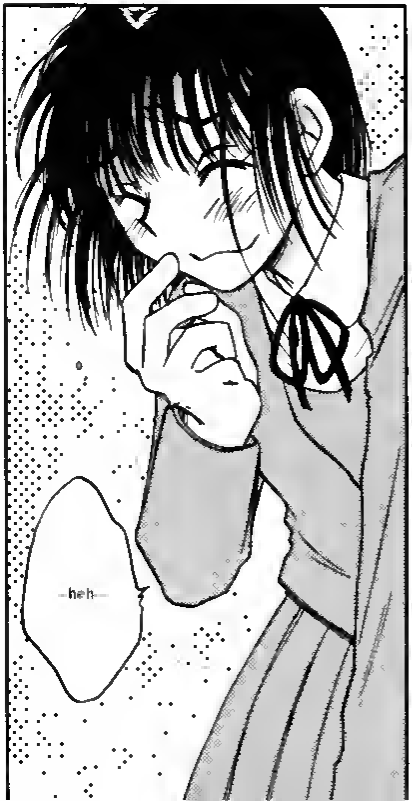
At first
I thought she was just the type
who either liked being alone, or just didn't mind.


But that didn't seem to be the case.

Hey.
You...
waited?
What happened to your friends?
You're not with them?
Hmm?
One's at cram school, and the other has club.
Is that so!

For no real reason
she always stayed late at school...
You were bored
so you decided to wait for me


My friend Mitsuoda,
the short one
even at home she was alone.
Because


—heh—

He kinda lost his mind and joined the tea ceremony club
Of course, he never shows up.

But today they finally caught him.
Right now he's sitting on his knees surrounded by female students and teachers

Perhaps what she really wanted
Ahaha...
Why did he join the tea ceremony club, of all things?
Funny, isn't it?
That's the mystery
It seems he just wanted to receive.
was for someone to pay attention to her.
So...
can I come over to your place today?
Uh...
Um...

We seem to only "do it" these days...
Well, er...
Is there a problem?
It's not that...
I don't want to...
but...
It's not a given that we'll do it
Ahaha!
Won't we?
If you don't want to, just say so
...

When I give an order
in the end, she will comply.
She even seems happy about it.
Wait!
Uh
Wait

Ah...
It's so calming
First hug me, hug me!
SFX: GYU - HUG
Ah!
Just a little, a little more
Wa
Wait a minute, wait a minute!
A

squeeze
Ooh...

Mm...
Oo
Ah
Ow...
SFX GARI - CHOMP
Stop
it
already...

Kupu
Kusu
That tickles
Oo
Oo
Fu
SFX GAUT - NIBBLE

Ow!!
SFX HIKU - STARTLED

Does it hurt...?
Sorry.
I feel both
a desire to be kind to her
and a desire to attack her
I've heard a story like this before.
That reminds me...
When a lion eats a rabbit
he isn't thinking, "I'm hungry," or, "that looks tasty..."

He's thinking, "that's cute".
While thinking how cute it is
he eats it up.
But
I'm far from being cool enough to be called a lion...

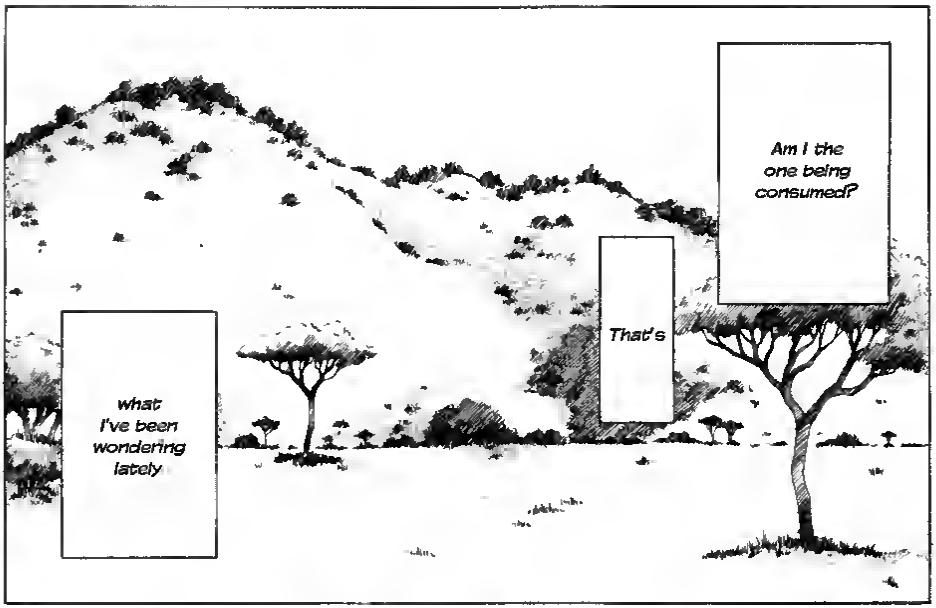
Ah!
Ah...
And she's not a rabbit.
Ah!

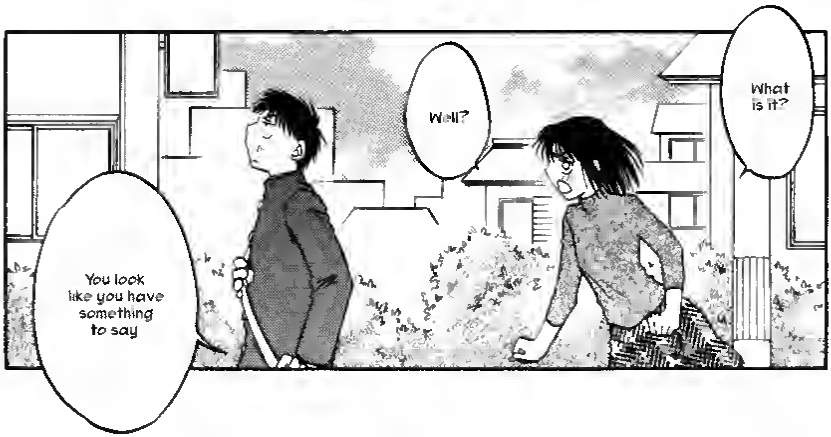
Oh, yeah
Have you heard this one?
Hmm?
In the old days,
kings and emperors
married young, didn't they?
And it seems like
there were quite a lot of short people, right?

That...
Meaning if you do "it" too often,
you might stay short
That's not the only reason
That's
Back then
SFX: BUTSUBUTSU - GRUMBLE
Ah
You are
ぶつぶつ
There were other reasons, like nutrit on
You're concerned about your height?

At that time
We were practically the same height.
PRETTY... CONCERNED
But me, I
would rather you didn't grow.
It's no joke!!
Of course!
Why would you ask me that...
Would being taller really make you happy?
But...

But you're much cuter this way!
...


Am I the one being consumed?
That's
what I've been wondering lately


You look like you have something to say
Well?
What is it?

Hey!

#4/END

Baby Leaf

Chapter 4

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Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-timer
Editing: Girsej
QC: Yuura & Moa

#5.
I Don't Understand

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Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-Timer
Editing: Girsu
Qc: Yuura & Moa

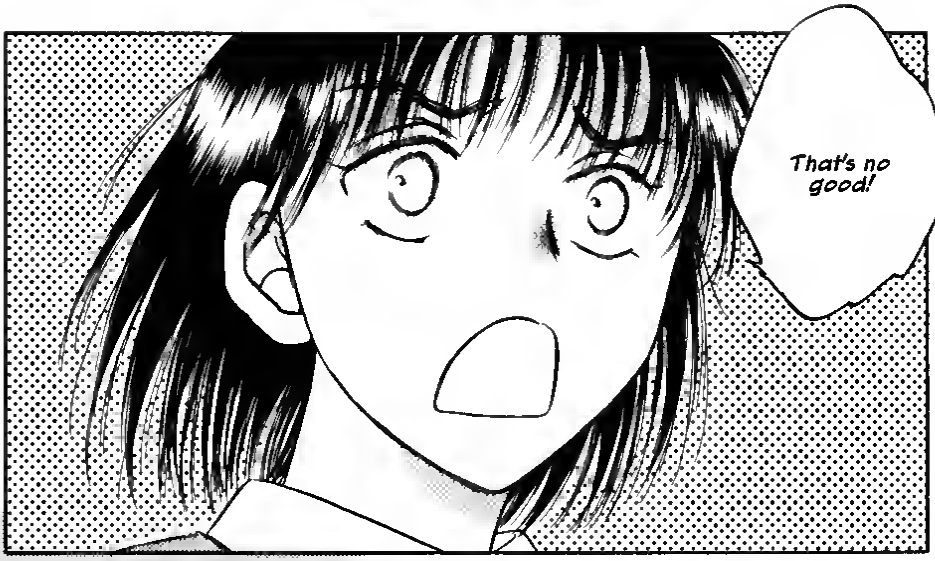
That's what guys with girlfriends are always saying.

"I don't understand women."

You-
You have to treasure your friends...
We're normal,
natural.
It's not like I don't
...
Spring.
Then I realized I was alone.

Hmm...
It was no big deal.
Classes were rearranged.
I just happened to be in a class where I didn't know anyone.
Oh.
I still talked to friends when I ran into them.
Pretty normal.
How's yours?
How's the new class?
Yo!

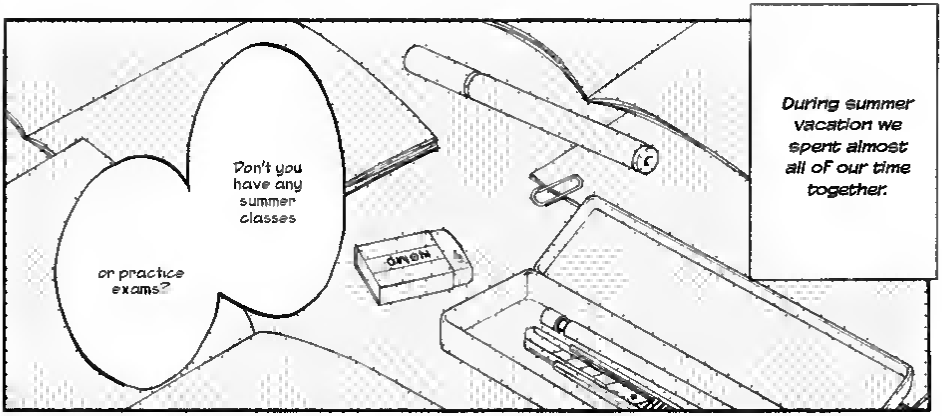
On the contrary.
So,
See ya!
Hey, studying!
All right!
Pretty normal.
I've got time.
might as well read a book.
...I didn't feel anything was missing.
Ending up in the same situation as my girlfriend
left me feeling strangely satisfied.


That's no good!

Why?
Because
Doesn't that leave you in a bind?
Nope

That's because girls
gang up for everything

Summer


During summer vacation we spent almost all of our time together.
Don't you have any summer classes
or practice exams?
ONIGIRI

If you pay attention in class,
take notes,
and do some problems sets, it's no problem

Nope, none
Is that ok?
You are supposed to be studying for exams!
That's

THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD SCHOOL
Which one?
Wow
--- gaoka

I'm not aiming that high,
just one public school
Because it isn't!
How can you say it's no problem?

I wish I could say it's easy...
Don't talk to the fan!
Ahhh!
puff

SFX JI-KU JI-KU - CHEEP CHEEP (CICADAS)
...Can I close the window and use the A/C?
SFX KARAKARA - SOUND OF CLOSING WINDOW
Aren't you trying to save electricity?
Eh? Really?
But it's so hot...

We set the A/C to 28°C.

Left the fan on.
closed the curtains.
being mindful of electricity usage.
Ah...

Ah...
Ah...

Why do you close your eyes?

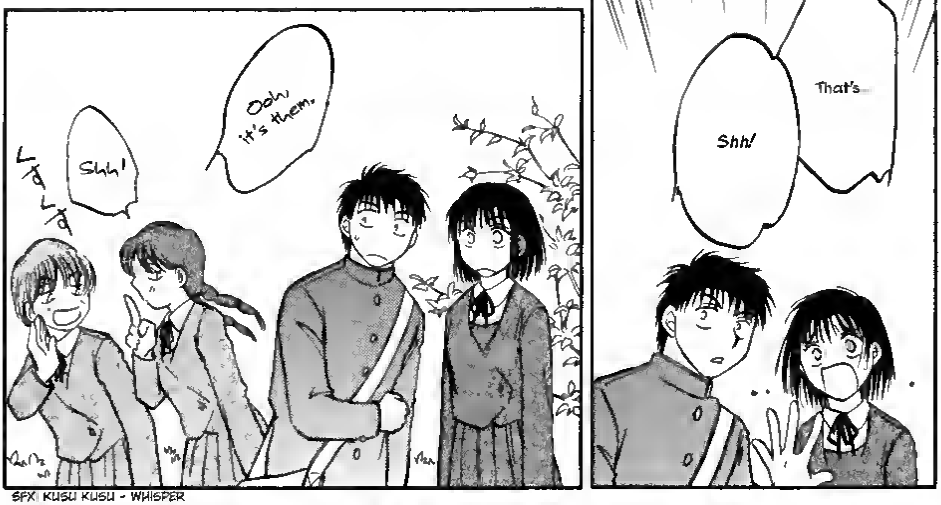
Why are you looking?

Ah...
When you look at it like this
it doesn't seem like summer

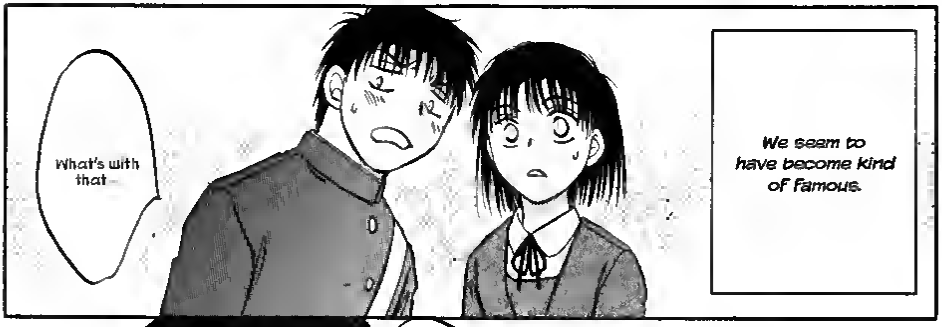
And look,
It's cool in here.
Really?
Hmm?
is like an autumn sky.
the sky,

Yup
Really?
This sentimental feeling
is pretty good, too.
Honestly
once vacation is over, we're not going to see each other every day
What I mean is
studying will, at the very least, make me less worried.
Ah!
I better get serious about studying!
Didn't you just say it was no problem?
Worried ?
About possibly failing?
Hmm,
something like that.

I had no idea
what she was so uneasy about.
So you should hang out with your friends more!
Autumn...
In other words!
You're sick of spending all of your time with me!?
I didn't say that, did I!?
Am I smothering you?
Are you tired of me?



SFX: KUSU KUSU - WHISPER



SFX: DAN - THUMP
So that's it!!
How could you be troubling me!?
Ah...
Weirdo
What's with him? Scary...
Not minding being alone
seems to have aggravated my solitude.
Guess I'll read a book...
Hmm...

How about going to a park?
It'll be warm
We can play with the delicate plants
Isn't what you're really saying
is you want to be with me?
After all!!
And then, um

Spill it!
I...
That's not it!
Isn't it obvious
The usual quarrel
left me unable to walk away.
Let's go to the amusement park!
Winter...

At that time
we went to all kinds of places.
aren't you supposed to be studying for exams?
Sometimes we've got to play outside!
No way It's cold
Besides,
Let's go see a bridge!
Let's go see the snow!!
Let's go to the zoo!
Even while complaining
I still went along.
You may not have classes,
but I do!
A bridge?
A bridge!!

Her favorite was
the desolate neighborhood zoo...
Aren't you choosing only cold places?
That furry monkey even looks cold.
Look at that
Hmm?
I had no idea.
What
Hmm
are you thinking?
How unsociable.

What?
Those monkeys are always able to find a partner in there, right?
On that tiny mountain
I don't get it.
The alpha monkey takes all the women for himself!
It's hard to say he decides to
It's like school
But there's nothing wrong with it, is there?
Even if there are are lots of other selection rules
If we don't know them, we can't use them

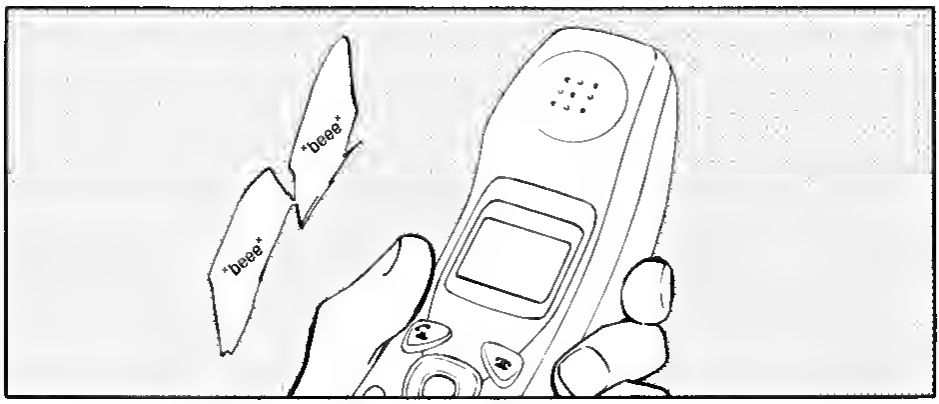
Besides,
It's better than being alone in your cage, right?

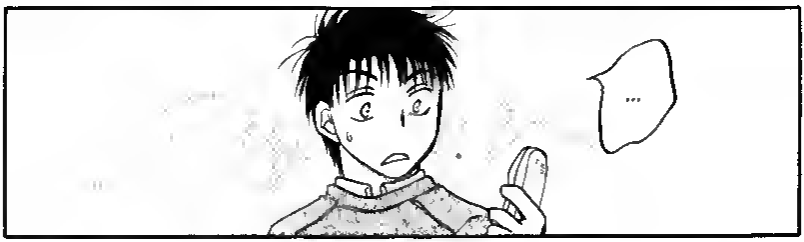
Being alone
I read recently that
female chimpanzees and gorillas sometimes court their keepers

Those keepers must be in a blind...
SFX DOSA - THUD
Isn't that something?
Isn't that scary?

What's wrong!?
Hey!
Are you okay...
It's nothing!!
just a bit...
It's nothing
Wait
A bit more...

Not understanding
isn't something you agonize over.
Then
much later I understood
Let's break up...
SFX: BU - CLICK
What are you...
What?
If you run into me, pretend you don't know me
I won't see you again
or talk to you on the phone


beep
beep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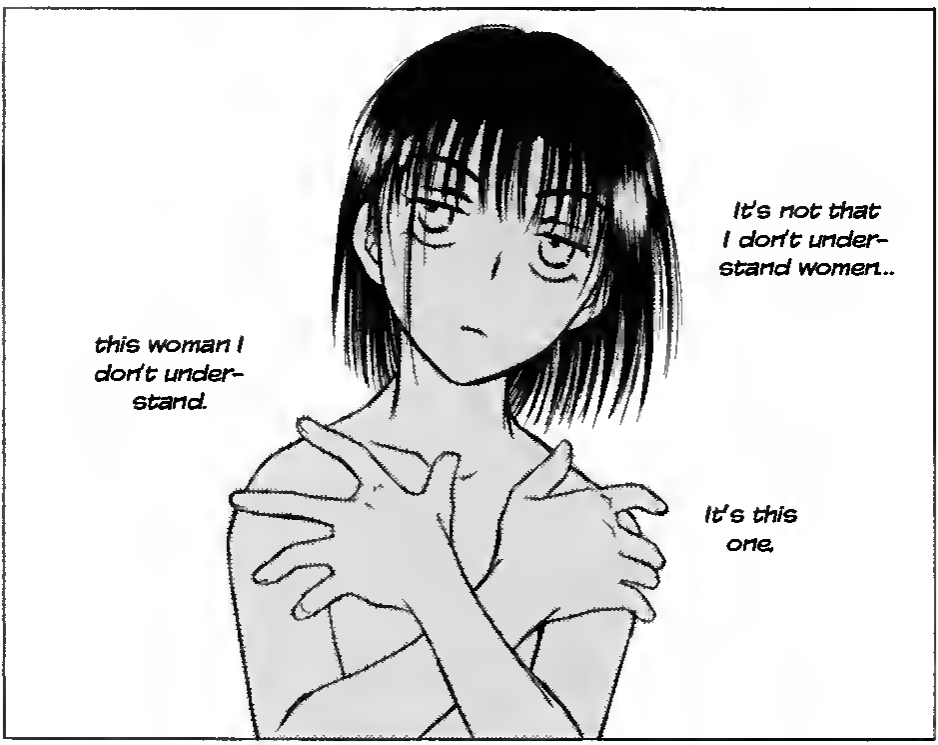
It's not that I don't understand women...
this woman I don't understand.
It's this one.

Baby Leaf

Chapter 5

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Scans: Druid
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Editing: Girsej
QC: Yuura & Moa

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Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-Timer
Editing: Girsej
Qc: Yuura & Moa

#6.
max. (Maximum)

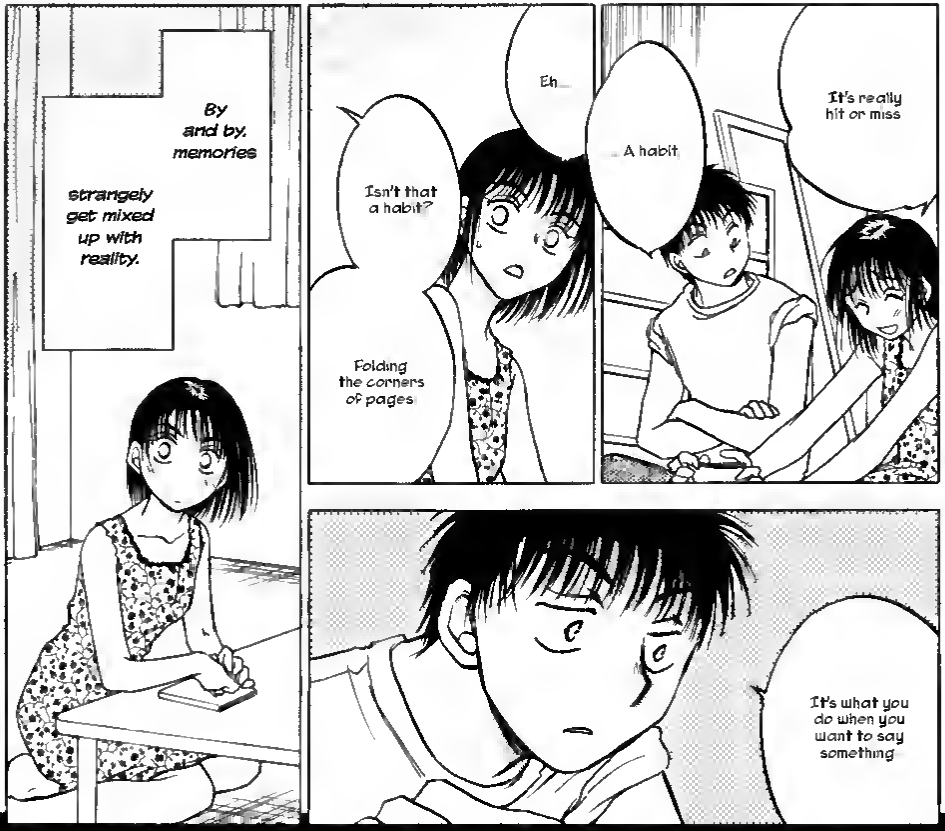
If you don't do anything but "that"
you might stay short.
Which "that"
was she talking about?
...So...

I'm talking about this.
SFX: GABA - GRAB
UA!!
OW...
This...

ズキン
ズキン
...?
ズキン
SEX ZUKIN - THROB

Ah...
What a laugh. .
After I stopped doing "that"
Really.
I started growing.
what they call growing pains.
So this is...
Let's break up
That thunderbolt from on high
truly
cut off all contact.
I won't see you again
or talk to you on the phone

No feelings poured forth.
I just remembered.
Thinking of nothing
I just
replayed the memories.
It's not
that I prefer any particular part
So I read wherever


By and by, memories
strangely get mixed up with reality.
Eh...
Isn't that a habit?
Folding the corners of pages
A habit
It's really hit or miss
It's what you do when you want to say something

Is that so?
Really?
Truly?
If you don't tell me, I won't understand.
But!
Why don't you just say it?
Aren't there things you can't say?

What if I say, "Tell me?"?
If I order you?
do

I want you to
kiss...
Hey!!
Hey!
Are you listening?
SFX HA - GASP
SFX DAN - SMACK

.. I wasn't paying attention
Ah..
Continue!
Read..
Um..
You've become a topic of conversation among the teachers
You're quite a problem
Something ?
Nothing
What is it?
Did something happen?
PREP ROOM
These days
nothing matters.
Who cares..
How so?

It's because you're naturally smart
That's because I have nothing to do other than study
Even though you've brought up your grades...
Not like that...
smart, aren't you?
You really are
You're not being cute
If you could just
It's your attitude
Cute, Cute, Cute!

Eh~
What is it? Leave me alone
Don't call guys cute.
Being called cute
means you're precious
Is this what you really want on your future plans form?

Is it a problem?
It's not that...
It's not that, but...
That's okay
Please,
I'll ask again if necessary
Are you past all that?
Didn't you used to
say you liked
stars and animals?
HE'S A SCIENCE TEACHER
It's okay!
Why not aim for the easier school with better teachers?
It's all
whatever
Gradually..

Gradually her outline is getting blurry.
Take
my hand
More
All the way to the elbow
Doing this
Feels like hugging, doesn't it?

It will never happen again.
We're going to move on to hugging.
so why is she going on about this?
Holding hands.
Seeing her expression.
Let's go see the snow!!

Memories have
no heat or cold
or sound.

Isn't it just like
being among the cherry blossoms?

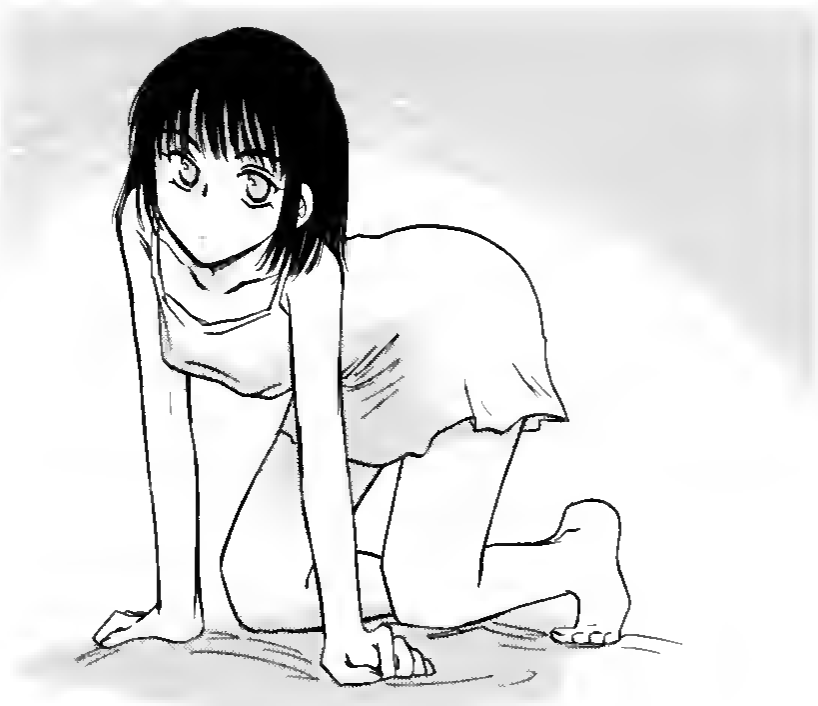
I don't know him.
I-
No,
N-
What is it? You know him?

Yeah, that's it.
Haha...
I've lost hope..
Or, I'm relieved.
I can finally put an end to it.
But what is it?
This...
This...

My mind went blank.
Lone-liness?
happi-ness?
Or.
That face..

Troubled.
Pained.
Forced.
It gives me
a tremendous shiver.
I've never experience this.
never again.
No.

The clue-lessness.
It's all blank.
All my Feelings towards her
Goodbye..
The fun.
The happiness. The pain. The impatience.
always ring out in full bloom.



But you know,
Why is it
the thing you most want to hear
from the man you love
is "you're cute".
Isn't it obvious?

Baby Leaf

Chapter 6

www.hanashi.org
#hanashi@irchighway.net

Scans: Druid
Translation: Old-timer
Editing: Girsej
QC: Yuura & Moa

Happy Birthday

Yeah yeah
She confessed with chocolate recently!
How cute!
Ck-
Ck-
That was all
But he accepted it, didn't he?
All I did was give him some
Inoue-kun
Is infamous for not accepting any
Really...?
Then, can you say
he accepted me as his girlfriend?
Accepted her
as a girlfriend?
I thought she was such
a stupid girl.

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We've been in the same class since we came to this school.
It's our first homeroom period
so let's all introduce ourselves, in order.
Boo!
Boo!
SFX GATA - CLATTER
I'm Komatsu, From West Jr High
Ugh...
Is this grade school?
Boo!
Boo!
My hobbies are computers and games.
Please tell us things like your academic aspirations
I can guarantee you a spot as a regular!
Yatta!
I'm holding a recruiting drive!
Pleabe!
Aspiration
SFX GATA - CLATTER
I'm Saitou, From Central Jr High
There's no handball team here
so I'll like to form one

Speaking of aspirations...
Being short bothers me
So I'm going to be sure to drink milk every day...
She was even shorter then than she is now.
I don't think you can call that an aspiration.
*IN TERMS OF HEIGHT
SFX. WASA - RUSTLE
Hasn't Saitou gotten even bigger?
Has your boyfriend's fondling made them bigger?
No...!
SFX PITA - STOP

Since we entered school
it's been like this.
Saitou-san,
maybe you'll grow taller if you play sports
How about joining the handball team?
I—
Wha, so soft.
Cut that out!
What a waste
since you're so stacked
No way!
Ah- no, no
This girl is still a virgin
SFX KUSUKUSU - WHISPER
KYAAAAA!
Let's see
"Stacked"?

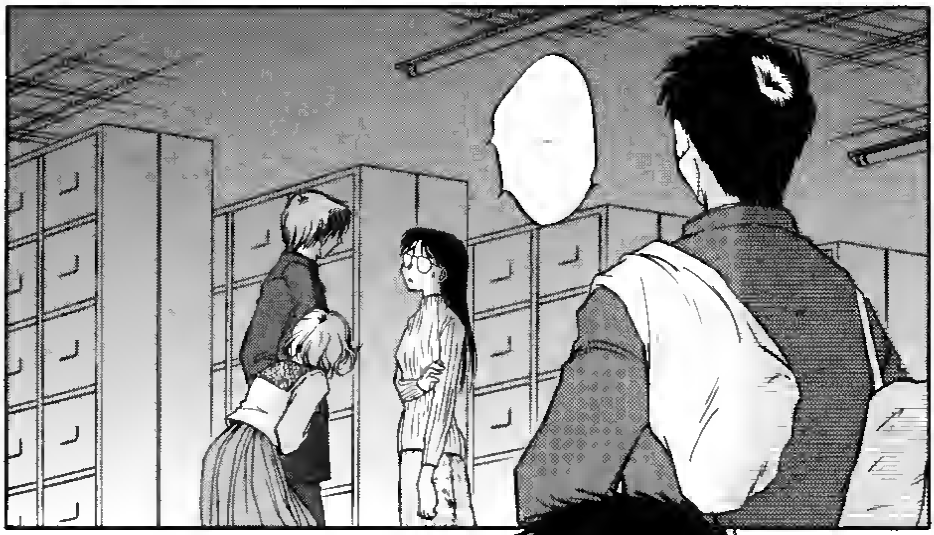
SFX: KUSHA KUSHA - RUFFLE
T/L NOTE: THE SCHOOL YEAR IN JAPAN BEGINS IN EARLY APRIL AND STUDENTS START SCHOOL AT A FIXED AGE, SO THE YOUNGEST STUDENTS IN A CLASS ARE THOSE BORN IN MARCH
This girl was born March 31st!!
She exists to be everyone's mascot
Because I was born in March
I was short until Junior High
I'm in the handicrafts club
TENTH GRADE: NOW 178 CM
One small mistake, and she would have been a grade below.
Yeah, March 12th.
Eh?
You were also born in March, Komatsu-kun?
I didn't think
I wanted her to become
an adult in any time soon
must run ten laps around the schoolyard.
Those who are late

What kinda guy is Inoue-kun?
Hmm, somewhat...
He's a "Johnnies" type, or such
Anyway, I don't like him!
Hey...
SFX ZA ZA ZA - RUNNING THROUGH GRASS
A SKEWED IMAGE
"Johnnies" type?
Actually, my fear is jealousy.
SFX ZA - SHUDDER
SFX HA - SPIN
SFX GARA - SOUND OF DOOR OPENING

SFX GATA - RATTLE
is the changing room for the handball team.
The founder, anyway.
Ah!
This...
S-
Sorry!
Somme's type?
Maybe?
?
"Chuckle"
SFX MUKA - ANGER
Not the handball TEAM,
more like the handball club
Inoue-kun!
SFX KU KU - CHUCKLE

He really is a jerk!
Being on an athletic team or not
makes a big difference in high school
A flushed forehead
And that faint scent...
Is it shampoo?
On the other hand, I...
Monotonously smell of dirt and sweat.
A life removed from such cheerful talk.
Please, stop!
Inoue-kun!

Or more like a fight scene?
It's got nothing to do with me!
Aw crap, a love scene!?
Come along!!
Yes, it does!
SFX KE - GAG
Either way,
Sensei!
don't do it at school
It?
so I
no longer
care about what you do!
Because I'm going out with this girl now
What? Sensei?



...Um...
Some-how
this looke like..
This...
Here.
is my shoe locker

Outside the net.
Are Inoue-kun and Mitsumori-sensei really doing something suspicious?
Wait, what do you mean?
Um, it's a rumor. Just a rumor.
I didn't spread this.
Wow...
But Inoue-kun is Saitou's
SFX: GARA - DOOR OPENING

Morning
Saitou~
There's a strange rumor
We don't believe it, but~
Yeah
That rumor
is cruel to both Sensei and Inoue-kun
What a stupid girl...
That rumor
came to an end right there

Mitsumori-sensei, who's been with us until now
School Assembly
will be retiring
Umm, at this time
The last semester
The last year of high school
that they just didn't have time for it
Everyone was so busy with their own work
to get married
What about you!!
Why are you saying that!?
Why are you saying that!
Uh-oh...

Why do I always get stuck in these scenes?
You've got to go!
Even if you can't do anything to stop it
you've got to hear it straight from Sensei!
Because you still feel for her...
Shuddup!!
SFX DAN - BANG
It's got nothing to do with you anymore!
Would you stop blathering!!
I don't know if that's a good argument or not.
Say, isn't this like eavesdropping...
Fine, then!

ask what her real feelings are!?
SFX: GARA - DOOR OPENING
I will go by myself and
SFX: KON KON - KNOCK KNOCK
You're in the handicrafts club, right?
Um...
Ah...
I'm sorry
Wasn't your club advisor calling?
No, it's not that
I'm not coming to change

SFX: GARA GARA - DOOR CLOSING
SFX: PISHAN - SWISH
SFX: TE TE TE TE - STEPPING FASTER
SFX: TE TE - STEPPING
Sorry, that was a lie.
Um..?
It was a ruse
Sorry for butting in
You
looked like you were at a loss

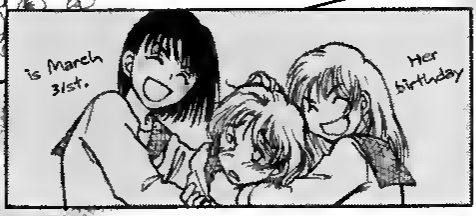
And
It's the first time you've called me by name.
Not at all....
That's not true.
Heh
Komatsu-kun
you're so grown up
You must think I'm pretty stupid.
SFX: GONYO - MUMBLE
ゴニョ
Mm....
sometimes makes me mad
Talking with him
and confused
No one has seen this side of her.

No one..
perhaps not even him
I hear Sensei is going to Tokyo
has noticed it.
And?
You're okay with that?
So he's going to follow and chase after her there.
So he says...
Isn't he nominally your boyfriend?
Can you allow things like that?
because I like him
I'll do anything for his sake
Whaaaat!?
I can

That's not right!!
No, that's not it.
I want to know
Ow...
Quit it!
I want to be part of everything he does.
If not,
I won't be satisfied.
Yep, she's stupid...

Do girls get like that?
when anyone's in love
do they get like that?
Or
Graduation
Are you really going?
When are you going?
She's supposedly flying
but we're taking the train!
We don't have the money to fly, and we might cancel...
When!?
Yeah
No
I don't know
It's up to him

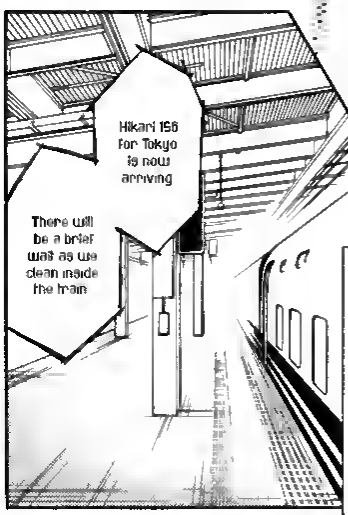
March 31st!



On such a day

she'd help the guy she likes chase after another woman.

Could I ever be such an idiot?

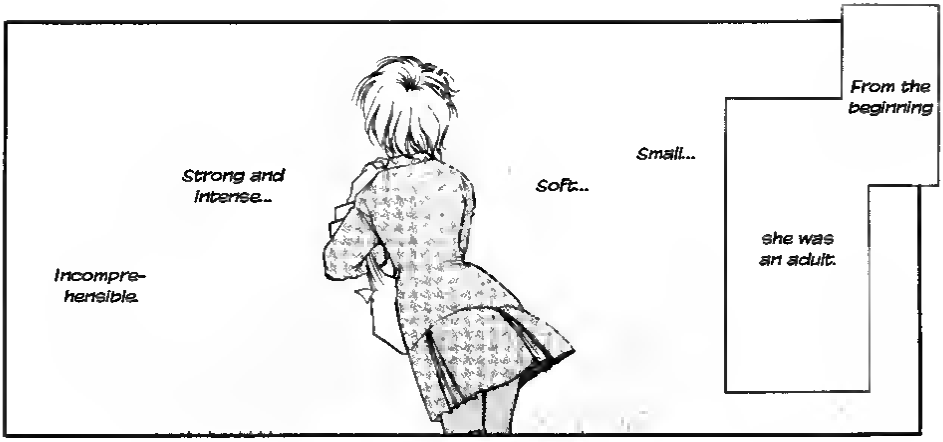


Komatsu-kun??
Ah...
Enough for two...
What a coincidence

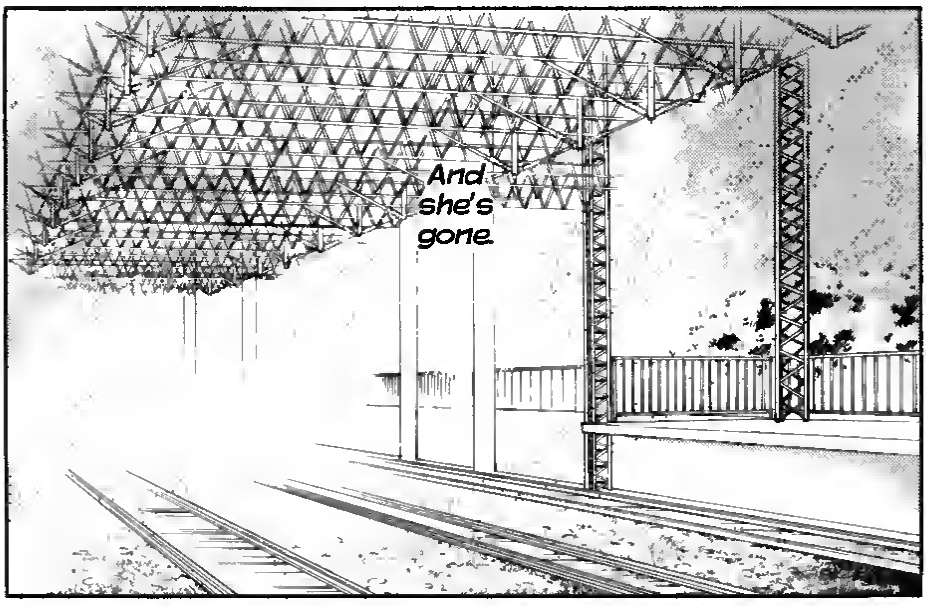
Today's my birthday.
I
Saitou-san
I bought too many
Ah, would you like one? They're chilled oranges
I thought she was going
List of Expected Reactions
What are you talking about?
Eh, it's mine too!
We're the same
Yours is March 12th, isn't it?
Liar~
Even I didn't know why I said that.
Perhaps this?
Cheerful
Couldn't be

SFX. NIKO - SMILE
SFX. PITA - STOP
SFX. TA - TAP
Ah...
Yeah.
Bye,
I've got to go
Komatsu-kun

Happy
Birthday!
たたっ
SFX: TA TA ... TAP TAP


From the beginning
she was an adult.
Small...
Soft...
Strong and intense...
Incompre-hensible.

Blessings and love.
All the things that she deserves are taken by someone else.
yet she still smiles like that.
Damn,
she really is my type.


And she's gone.

●The End●

Baby Leaf

END

作品について ――― ではぜんぜんナイですが

中高生時代に、ウツクシク楽しい思い出があるひとは幸いである。
いや、私にまったくそれがなかったとは言わない。　おそらくたぶん、
他の99%の人と同じ、凡庸だった。
ただそのころ、私は仕ともだちというものに痛めつけられ、集団というものに失望した。
くわしく書こうとして、やめた。　あまりにもありがちすぎて、未だにそれをひきずる私が、いかにも了見の狭いやつに思えたからだ。
　んー。　いや。　了見は狭いです。ですともさ。
以来、私には友達と呼べるひとがいない。
もっと正確に言うならば、友達ってのは「友達になっていただいてる人」であり、いつ離れていくかもわからない人、である。
私は友達を継続させるべく、努力することができない。　しない。

ひとを楽しませたい、喜ばせたいとは心から思う。
仲よい相手であるほど、そのひとが不快なおもいをすると私も悲しい。
なのに、必死になればなるほど、なぜか正面にいる相手の言葉を聞きもらし反応を見逃す。
　まぁたぶん、こんなのはイマドキ自分だけではあるまい、と
せまい周囲を見渡しては　ちょっと安心する。
程度の差はあれ、みんな似たようなもんだ。

そんなふうな、たくさんのひとと（99%かもしれない）同様に、
わたしは、恋人どうしという間柄でしか、深くひとと　つきあったことがないように思う。　あれを深いと言っていいならば、だけど。
あとは、親とか妹とか。

　私のマンガに、登場人物が少ないのは（と言われる）、そーゆう理由からかもしれない。
好きあっている、肌をあわせている、という安心感がないと、
ほんとうには　そのひとと真剣に向きあう勇気がない。
そしてたぶん、これから先も　そうなんじゃないかなーという予感がする。
　もう、イイオトナなのにね。

困ったもんだ。

あとがき

楽しめない人間は憐れである。
という言葉を言ったのは誰だっけ？

世の中には楽しいことがいっぱいあって、知らないという理由だけではない、金銭的、環境的、人格的な貧しさで、それを味わえないでいる99くの人間たち。
そのなかにはもちろん、私も入っている。
おまけに私は、元来の考えこみすぎもたたって、楽しく笑った思い出も、いちいちそこに恥と後悔をほじくり出しては、唸る。
楽しむ素質のない人間ってのは、けっこういるもんだ。
不幸が好きなわけじゃないのよ。

けれどもしも、毎日が喜びと発見の連続で、人生楽しくてしょーがないという その人が（いるんだろうか本当に）
例えば、おさんぽ途中の街並み、空気、星の光や街の灯りなどに幸福になることを忘れてるんだとしたら、それはそれで憐れだという気もする。

世の中楽しくてしょーがないひとが、私とおなじ ササヤカな幸せにも共感できるんだとしたら。
いっしょに微笑みあえる。話ができる。
何の隔たりもない。

私には ほとんど トモダチもいないけども。
そのトモダチも、そうでない人も、知らない人も、みんな
どっちかといえば シアワセなほうが、そりゃいいなーと思ってる。
小市民ナリ。

んでもって、この本をよんでくれた スキ♥ なひとたちには やはしうんと シアワセでいて ほしいなぁと…（自分勝手）

2003ねん．4がつ．
二宮ひかるより．
＋愛♡をこめて!!

●コミック316●

【YKコミックス】

ベイビーリーフ

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Happy Birthday

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